

SEVEN DAYS



point-point-line

An illustration of a woman in a red and white polka-dot dress standing next to a man in a pink plaid suit. In the background, there is a woman in a green and white striped dress and a man in a blue and white checkered suit.

Birth Rights

When a child has more than two parents, Vermont family law meets a new frontier

BY KEN PICARD PBB



ON THE RECORD

On the second day
Brennan adds to her writing class

MAJOR AT BAT

On the ball field with Mom

STAND-UP SPORT

A review of road infrastructure in VT

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SAT 7/27 • 8PM
BOB MARLEY: WICKED FUNNY

A regular at the Aspen and Montreal comedy festivals, Marley was named one of Variety's "10 Comics to Watch."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SAT 8PM: CHRISTOPHER O'REILLY

THU 10/25-8/12: MUSIC FESTIVAL OF THE AMERICAS

WED 8/16: TAU MANAH TDUO

FRI 8/24: SECOND CITY FOR PRESIDENT

THU 8/16: COWBOY JUNIORS

TUE 10/2: LOS LONELY BOYS

REVIEWED

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Stay Cool

The 2012 Burlington Discover Jazz Festival came to an end that past weekend, and it was a beauty.

Even though the weather didn't always cooperate this year, jazz fans once again held the stars of the genre in a grip, giving Vermont Burlingtonians a chance to savor around 15 jazz shows, paying a dollar or a paltry 10 percent for numerous seating options of choices.

For this year's festival, Burlington hosted many of the New Orleans brass stylings of Tremébone Shroyer, the Gallerie's stellar sound of Nancy Wilsons, the jazz experiments of Marcia Ballouette. There was plenty beyond jazz, too: reggae legend Jimmy Cliff, blues-rock crooner Robbie Basho, and a duo starring Hissoune and the Seven Fingers. Don't get us wrong, and don't forget that a great jazz ensemble can make you feel high, but jazz ensembles make you feel them even deeper. Stop for 10 days in a straight, Music Hall can't be beat. Read all about it this year's jazz fest in this section's column on page 63.

If you're looking jazz fest with a musical identity serving up a preview, S. J. U. spoke to some: hopping jazz bassist Christian McBride for the latest episode of Seven Days' new music podcast *Tear Down McBride*, who played at the Rhythm Center on Friday with his band Instinctive. With 10,000-plus shows to his name, it's just what McBride does in Germany and has added numerous to his Facebook. Find him in the same position, demonstrating something for *Tear Down McBride* on Facebook or follow him on our website at sevendaysvt.com.



CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE

Looking for the money king power?
 Find them in Local Edition on page 11.

facing facts



DRIVING INSTEAD

A Virovolok
bicyclist shot
two times —
11 days after a
similar shooting
down in Essex
 Junction. Think
 before you ride.



SURPRISE, TO REAPSE

Give Peter Shumlin
a moment to
rethink his
misguided Green
Party strategy
and you'll be
surprised.



FEARLESS?

The Burlington
Free Press finally
implemented its
Enrich Yourself
change. Much like
a newspaper.



SHAME!

Many people in
the Champlain
neighborhood A
bully planted the
sign in front of a
housing complex
for the identity
"Shame!"



\$5M

That's how much money
the mountain-biking
industry brings to the
Northwest Kingdom
annually, according to
Vermont Public Radio.

TOP FIVE

Most Popular Items

1. *"Easier Read"* by Kathryn Flagg: As the Burlington School District becomes more racing diverse, it's hard to figure with how to address a alleged achievement gap but even its address its state and white students.
2. *"Lamestine Quaking"* by Alan Lewis: A post on Lamestine News.com are breaking news-life-in-the-Cathedral-Hamlet-Resident in Winooski.
3. *"Vermont is Still Shopping Near Grocery Stores"* by Tom Hirsch: There's no doubt that as economic growth of Vermont has been surging to be held but the Green City is still missing one big thing, a grocery store.
4. *"Why Vermont is Playing Some Thing to Take Back Ed"* by Kathryn Flagg: An innovative program in Bristol has a new way to help its citizens get on making social issues: \$50 cash.
5. *"State Chimes: "Bridge to Tomorrow"* by Alan Lewis: The 100th Bell is being rung to end the House the Bellmen Cup Call Father Technical School into its granding days off.



**tweet of
the week:**

REMEMBER

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AND Have never had a child before

OR Have had pseudomenstrual past:

OR Have Type 3 diabetes

OR Have a personal or family history of hypertension or stroke/heart disease

THEM

Residents of the University of Vermont would like to speak with you. The study will examine risk factors for pseudomenstrual disease, a disease of pregnancy.

Resident application of up to \$250 to medical school students to determine risk of pseudomenstrual disease.

If you are interested please call
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SEVEN DAYS

CONTRIBUTED, MODIFIED

7

FEEDback

READER REACTION TO RECENT ARTICLES

DAD DAD

Maybe I missed something ("The K Chronicles," May 24). What's funny about a father showering with his daughter's friends?

Gene Shervington
BURLINGTON

supply and demand would balance. The penny fee was raised from \$50 to \$375. Problem solved!

In the case of Burleighgan's water-front, it should be clear that the cost of a slip is far too low. First a graduate student in economics with a master's thesis to prepare, and she will calculate the optimal price of a slip so that wait times and illegal obdets are eliminated, and sufficient money is available for capital improvements. If a greater portion of less-expensive small boats, or powered craft, is desired for leisure, a sliding scale could be implemented. What are we waiting for?

Steve Levy
BURLINGTON

PRICE IS THE PROBLEM

I read about the difficulty in obtaining a zoning at the Burlington waterfront with increasing frustration concerning current municipal policy ("HighlandDry" in Burlington, Best Way for a Place to Park," May 23). The problems described in the article — the long wait for open mooring, the lack of money for facility upgrades, the illegal obdets via Craigslist posts — attest from the same situation publicly based reasoning that no enforcement is supply and demand.

Make no mistake, we are not discussing any of Bill's essentials. In any book, decking of one's waterfront in the Burlington Harbor falls squarely in the category of elective recreation.

A short digression: When I was a freshman at an upstate New York college, there were increasingly vocal complaints about the lack of on-campus parking spaces for students. Instead of paving over more grounds, the provost called the economics department to calculate the approximate rate at which

WISHING IN WISCONSIN

It certainly would like nice to have agriculture since here in Wisconsin (or "Wiscons in" as Bill戏称) the low-folks-and-popcorn-eaters charge exorbitant prices. For example: a tray of eggs for \$7, more than \$450 for less than a half-pound of factory-packaged ground beef. There are never any sales at these "big joints" either. I for one would welcome a fully stocked grocery store within walking distance in Wisconsin. Is it brain surgery or what?

Brennan Doyle
BURLINGTON

TIM NEERCOMB



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WHAT IS SULTANAS?

[Re "Se Long, Sultan," Sen. Linda Miller Stages Her Exit," May 26] According to my copy of the Oxford English Dictionary, a "sultan" is a small, brown raisin.

Carissa Brown
MONTPELIER

'HORROR' IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Since I did not attend ECHO Lake Association and Science Center's latest exhibit, "Our Body," I feel I am at least as qualified to comment on it as Michael Berlin's noted about how it was a "censored exhibition" [Feedback, "Home Show," May 26]. In short, he condemned it as a money-making ploy with no value at all to the public in general. The fact that the



this person didn't even see the exhibit, coupled with his very right-wing statement directed at parents who take their children to it — "People can't be trusted to know on their own what's appropriate" — reminds me how some folks absolutely revel in the attempt to control who sees what. If this person had actually gone to see "Our Body," perhaps the speciousness of the human body would have taken on a whole new meaning. When one sees just how intricate and delicate the carriage of our essence really is, perhaps writing scathing letters to the editor would seem less important.

Christopher Makoway
BURLIN

DISRESPECTFUL AND WRONG

After reading Tim Naumann's political cartoon in the May 20 issue of Seven Days, I felt I needed to write. To equate the tens of thousands of American men and women, like myself, who served their country with honor and self-sacrifice to cowards, bigots and completely disrespectful to all those Americans who served this country.

And to add insult to injury: The drawing of the American flag shows it unfurled in the wrong direction! If you are going to be disrespectful, at least get it right!

Robert J. Hanwood
Rutland

F-35S AWAY

[Re "F-35 or Bust: Other Towns Clash for the 'Most Expensive Weapon Ever,'" May 26] The information the public received concerning the declared levels greatly contradicts the LeClerc Martin report — it didn't mention Hildale. In November 2014, a Pentagon report cited 13 serious safety issues with the F-35. Many of these are exceedingly dangerous to the general public. Hopefully, they will house their jets at one of the two preferred bases that are located away from residential neighborhoods. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

Jerry Bourque
COLCHESTER

SOUTHBOUND F-35?

Send please to Burlington, we can use the jets that go with them. [Re "F-35 or Bust: Other Towns Clash for the 'Most Expensive Weapon Ever,'" May 26] This part of Vermont is not big enough to turn down all the god-paying jets that go with these planes.

Jessica McSherry
BURLIN

BIKE PATH BENEFITS

I am so excited that repair work has begun on the Colchester and Allen Point causeways — "Burlington-area Bike Paths Are All They're Cooked Up to Be," April 25) both were badly damaged by flooding last spring. These repairs are due to the tremendous dedication of the officials in Colchester and the Department of Fish & Wildlife, and I am thankful to all who are making them a reality. The causeways and the bike ferry are true gems that many people love and are grateful to those who use them. I look forward to riding the bike ferry all season next year!

Alisa McHenry
SOUTH BURLIN

SAY SOMETHING!

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Love you!



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TUE 5/26	SUPER 8PM KITCH BARNES & THE KITCH CO 7PM DJ A-DOG 10PM • DJ CRIS 10PM
WED 5/27	BOB WAGNER 8PM FLAMINGASTER 8PM LITTLE BOB TWINS 9PM
THU 5/28	GREG MITCHELL 8PM POET HORN 8PM DJ RALEY 9PM SERGE 9PM
FRI 5/29	DJ STANIS 10PM • DJ A-DOG 10PM GAMES SHOWERS 7PM DJ JAY BROWN 8PM
SAT 5/30	MICHAEL WILSON 8:30PM INDUSTRIAL FIGHTER ROBIE 10PM SHANE HARDMAN 7PM
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THURSDAY 14 & FRIDAY 15

Fully Exposed

Generally regarded as one of the world's top experimental movies, choreographer John Neumeier pushes the boundaries of dance in *Postmodern Broadway*. Outstanding soloists and gender-bending, the dance is tender, wild, spare — so spare, in fact, that the male dancers perform totally nude. Try to keep your jaw off the floor when the *Jobs* **Ampera Company** presents this thought-provoking work at the Ryman.

SEE GALLERIES & SPOTLIGHT ON PAGE 46

①

WEDNESDAY 20

State of Play

Having played 8,000 shows in 46 states over the last four years, alt-country outfit *These United States* may not be performing perfectly now — they're no strangers to that — but only underlined by the fact that their 10th album since 2000 rolls out this week. Expect cotton candy arrangements involving lots of twangy, psych pop and good, old-fashioned rock at the Murphy House next Wednesday.

SEE STORY ON PAGE 14 AND GIG GUIDE ON PAGE 60

②

SATURDAY 16

Knead to Know

Where are you going to find a cat at Freshly Baked Doughnuts? Probably exclusively in the windows, dressed and *Puppet Museum Open House*, marking the 30th season of this odd art and political theater troupe. Here, creative assistance comes in the shape of some of the world's biggest puppets.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 10

③

SATURDAY 16

Talk of the Town

Light like candlelight — the festival is all grown up. As part of its 25th-anniversary celebration, residents from the past and present at *Recess Revel* — a music festival and street fair — bring their local and regional tours of historic buildings, wine and beer tastings, activities by Jenkins Parade and the Heat, Gourmet, among others.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 10

④

THURSDAY 16

Word Up

That being as it's generally frowned upon in the theater settings, but *An Evening of Letters With Mark Cuban* is that except on. The Vietnamese with a love of litigations (the legal free-speech type) — and they turn back in to this unique application of the legal art communication, also a fundraiser for Latino's forthcoming Film Art on Hemp.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 10

What You Shouldn't Know About the Seven-Step Secret at sevenstepsecret.com

TUESDAY 19 &
WEDNESDAY 20

Second to Nun

Lauding the strength of the local theater scene, Playhouse on Park's *Second to Nun* — a one-woman show — could be the newest, most professional labor of love talents for Glee's Gwyneth Paltrow currently. **Recessional**, which the Little Theater of Hoboken stage is latest showstopper after a year of foot-dragging and \$2,000 off-the-top. Then comes *Thermostatic* plays out through June 30.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 57

⑤

Word Up

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SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 10

everything else...

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T.J. Comes Clean

The man who wants to be Vermont's chief prosecutor hasn't always stayed on the right side of the law. Twenty years ago, Chittenden County State's Attorney **T.J. DONOVAN** was arrested after a drunken fight and charged with aggravated assault.

Donovan describes the incident as a "fistfight" between two groups of young men on Church Street who "probably had too much to drink." Donovan was 16 years old at the time and had recently graduated from Burlington High School. The fight left one man with a chipped tooth, for which Donovan was held responsible.

As part of a plea deal, the suggested assault charge was reduced to misdemeanor simple assault, and Donovan received a three-year deferred sentence after completing 100 hours of community service and an alcohol assessment — and paying the victim roughly \$1,000 in restitution — the crime was suspended from Donovan's record.

"I did something stupid that I regret, that I've learned about, that I've taken responsibility for, that happened in that time I grew up in, that embarrassed my family," Donovan says. "I've never had it come up, I've tried to learn from it."

Donovan's drunken, violent incident that took place when Donovan was just out of high school raise concerns about his suitability for the state's top law enforcement job. Quite the contrary, Donovan insists. He says the incident forced him to have a unique understanding of what it's like to grow up as a young age.

"Because of my own personal struggles and that embarrassment and shame that is still part of me close to 20 years later, I have great empathy for people who struggle. I have great empathy for people who need a helping hand. I have great empathy for people who deserve a second chance because I was the beneficiary of a lot of second chances," Donovan said. "I would say this gives me great insight into what we can do differently in the criminal justice system. I've lived it and I've tried to grow back through the work I've done as a prosecutor."

Donovan is engaged in a heated race with 80-year-old incumbent **ISAAC SIEGMUND** for the Democratic nomination for AG. Though he has never run for state's attorney in Vermont's most populous county, Donovan's criminal record has

not been previously reported. Fair Game received an anonymous tip through the mail about the incident, which Donovan immediately confirmed when asked.

"I have no idea where that came from, but I'm not surprised that with two and a half months to go [until the election], somebody writes an anonymous letter about something that occurred 20 years ago," he says.

Aided to comment on the issue, Sorell says, "I'm sure that whatever happened, he regrets, and it's in the past and that's where I'm going to leave it."

As state's attorney, Donovan says he has often raised the subject of his troubled past.

I DID SOMETHING STUPID
THAT I REGRET,
THAT I'M ASHAMED ABOUT,
THAT I'VE TAKEN RESPONSIBILITY
FOR... I'VE TRIED TO LEARN FROM IT.

T.J. DONOVAN

"I've tried to use it as a teachable moment for a lot of young people, tell them why they're in court that this does not have to define them — that they can learn from that and they can emerge stronger from it," he says.

Donovan says he struggled with alcohol-related problems throughout his teens and twenties. A year or two before the fistfight, he says, the cop who busted him for underage drinking.

"I have a distinct memory of my father picking me up at the Burlington police station after I'd been picked up for drinking," he recalls. "That was not a fun trip home."

After graduating from Suffolk University Law School, Donovan says he did not consider the assault charge in his application to join the bar. His father, who is also an attorney, advised him that he did not have to report an offense that had been expunged from his record.

Donovan, 36, describes himself these days as a "social drunk" who has matured and learned how to behave responsibly. But he's quick to say he's still "no saint."

"I don't quote *Warren* here often but I'll quote him here: *When I was young and stupid, I was really young and*

impat," Donovan says. "I am far from a perfect person. I've made mistakes in my life. I'll continue to make mistakes. But I try to do the right thing. I'm not always successful, but I try."

All Politics Is Personnel

Two months after taking office, Burlington Mayor **CHRIS WEINBERGER** finally appointed a few of the city's 15 mayoral appointments.

So what's staying and who's going?

Those getting another yearlong term include police chief **MICHAEL HORNIG**, fire chief **MARK LARSEN**, Department of Public Works director **KEVIN BODDIE** and Burlington Electric Department general manager **MARK MARSALA**.

As he did with Community and Economic Development director **LARRY WEINBERGER** in April, Weinberger gave the keys to the Parks and Recreation director **MARK STEPHENS** — though both will continue serving in their positions until the mayor names their respective replacements.

"I came to the conclusion that it was important to have new leadership, new direction in the Parks and Recreation Department," Weinberger says, declining to elaborate on why he's firing Stephens.

Weinberger is still nailing down permanent posts for several top city-hall jobs. He's sole interim chief administrative officer **PAUL MANN** to stay on through the end of September, pending the completion of a national search. The mayor says he expects to name a new city attorney and CEO director soon, after which he'll turn his attention to filling other posts.

Meanwhile, Weinberger has proposed a reorganization of the mayor's office that would increase his personal staff from two to three. Giving the need for "additional capacity" the mayor has asked the city council to create a new position called "assistant to the Mayor for Open Government, Innovation and Municipal Initiatives."

Try fitting that on your business card!

So committed to transparency is Weinberger that he's already filled the yet-to-be-created "open-government" job. He temporarily hired former city councilor and state representative **CAROLYN DRACOL** last Monday to perform the job's duties until it's formally approved and she can be appointed. Dracol, a former Weinberger campaign adviser,

is the stepdaughter of Progfather Senator Sanders (I-VT), who endorsed Weisberger in the closing days of his mayoral race.

When councilors learned about Driscoll's hearing during a budget work session last Thursday, at least one was miffed about, well, the lack of transparency in the process.

"It seems a little ironic that it would be an open-government position, but that it wouldn't be fully served or exercised at anything," says Councilor Mai-Mai (P-Wed 20). "I'm not opposed to him making the necessary negotiations to be successful, but I just think if he's going to be changing the structure of city government, he should be justifying it publicly."

Windfall City

Last week Fair Game reported that Gov. Peter Shumlin is likely to serve as the next chairman of the Democratic Governors Association — the Belchey bundler of union and corporate cash for fellow Democratic governors' campaigns. On Wednesday this week, Shummy took off to Chicago for an overnight trip to attend what his office calls a CEO Roundtable event hosted by the DGA.

While in Windy City, the Green Mountain guy will take in a Cubs game with five fellow governors and some special friends after a "no-flap-flop" reception over Wrigley Field, according to a conference schedule. He'll also rub elbows at breakfast with members of the DGA's Founders' Circle and Chairman's Council. A 2010 story in the *New York Times* calculated the cost of membership in these exclusive clubs at \$156,000 and \$100,000, respectively.

The DGA declined to provide a list of those attending the conference, but a spokesperson said the organization expects to raise \$1 million during the Chicago event. Shumlin aide Mark Mallon provided the names of those participating in three morning "policy discussions." They include representatives of Aetna, BlueCross BlueShield, Walgreens, WellCare Health Plans, Avera, CentraCare Energy, AT&T and a slew of labor unions.

The DGA, MacLean says, will pick up the tab for the trip.

Not So Fast

With his email announcement Tuesday

that he would seek reelection as governor, Shumlin put to rest months of non-terribly-believable cynicism about his electoral intentions.

Another longtime Vermont pol is being considerably less coy about his reelection plans — and a jerk who you think.

Last week Fair Game speculated that Shumlin might have his eye on Senate. **SENATE** **SENATE** **SENATE** seat, should the senior senator decide to hang up his hat in 2016 after 24 years on the job. In response, Leahy spokesman **DAVID CARLIS** and an email that said, "absolutely not so fast."

Referring to an annual Democratic fundraising dinner held last month, Carlis said, "In case you weren't at the Curtis Awards dinner, I'd merely note that [Leahy] and I share that he looks forward to seeing the Leahy blue again in 2016."

Never too early to dust off the vintage 1974 lawn signs.

Media Notes

The Vermont press corps is living one of its best — and definitely workload — eras. VTDigger.org's health care and energy reporter, **ALAN PANISBERG**, is leading the online news race to take a job as northeast oarswoman director for America's Whitewater — a conservation and recreation nonprofit dedicated to protecting really great white-water runs.

Why is Panisberg, a journalist and law school grad, willing to cut big Whitewater?

"Digger's been awesome," he says. "It's just a really sweet opportunity because I'm really focused on white-water kayaking."

Yeah, hand.

Both Digger and the Vermont Press Bureau — which recently lost reporter **JENNIFER** to the *Times of Vermont* — are looking for new Statehouse reporters. If you're into that kind of sh-t... 

-  [VTdigger.org](https://www.facebook.com/VTdigger.org) Tuesday mornings 8-9 a.m. am on tinyurl.com/62224m
-  [Twitter](https://twitter.com/VTdigger) tinyurl.com/62224m
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Burlington's Mayor Steps Out With a Budget-Balancing Act

BY KEVIN J. KELLEY

Ten weeks after becoming mayor of Burlington, Mike Wittenberger acknowledges he's still in the "beginner" phase. That start-up status is also reflected in the office of his corner suite on the second floor of city hall. Apart from hanging a congratulatory plaque from a Jerry's on art paper presented recently by a group of visiting Turks, Wittenberger—who has never previously held elected office—but yet to personalize his own office.

The reception area includes a portrait gallery of Burlington's 34 mayors. There's an empty space where Wittenberger's picture will eventually be placed.

Tell about pressure.

The Queen City's first Democratic king in 33 years has also made a couple of rookie mistakes. On the same day that he was announcing a city-budget breakthrough, Wittenberger was forced to withdraw the nomination of Ian Carlson, an city attorney over allegations of embezzlement and salary theft. As the town moved predominantly focused on the Common from gov. to became obvious, that the flagging standardization avoided noticing in P.R. 101.

But Wittenberger will get a second chance as the coming weeks to use a budget he and Finance Chief Administrative Officer Paul Simon promise will both be a tax increase and cuts in city services — an impressive achievement under the circumstances. Previous mayor Bob Hall sought three increases to raise taxes to address an estimated \$750,000 deficit, without success. By the time Wittenberger took over in early April, the projected gap had widened to \$1.2 million, owing to a legal ruling that reflects in an earlier account the equivalent of \$425,000 in annual income pay-downs from final up-front Teluscom that would have gone to the city.

In a joint interview last Friday, Wittenberger and Simon waded off a



Mike Wittenberger and Paul Simon

Wittenberger's suggestion that they're working some kind of financial magic. "We now have more information than Bob had," Hall's successor said. Wittenberger also noted he's got more budgetary flexibility. Votes approved in March of a charter change enables the city to borrow an additional \$1 million for capital improvements.

The success of the Wittenberger-Simon balancing act is also due in part to sheer good luck. A lower-than-anticipated inflation rate, for example, is saving \$380,000 in out-of-fliving increases for city employees. A low-lump economy is meanwhile expected to generate an added \$300,000 in gross-receipt taxes, according to a "windfall analysis" cited by the mayor.

Clever accounting also helped in designing the good news budget package that must be voted on by the city council prior to July 1 — the start of fiscal year 2013.

Wittenberger and Simon squared out the same kind of financial poison. They've got the city into \$200,000 by using board proceeds to pay off the loan on the Burlington Police Department headquarters on North Avenue. Another \$300,000 in additional revenues and savings has been unearthed in the Departmental Public Works.

Progressive Ward 2 Councilor Max Tracy describes Simon's approach as "a very talented financial person." Tracy is one of a few councilors on the city's Board of Finance who has taken part in nearly all budget-planning sessions during the past few months. City Council President Jean Shrimpton, a Ward 4 Democrat, says she has sought to engage all 16 councilors — not just the four on the Board of Finance — in this year's budget-making process. While the deliberations have generally proved collegial, a couple of councilors have not hesitated to challenge specific items as

Wittenberger's proposed budget, Shrimpton notes. "He's listened and in some cases made adjustments," she says.

Not surprisingly, the mayor's Democratic ally, who occupies one of the council's four Board of Finance seats, has greatest praise for Simon and Wittenberger. "It's impressive what they have done," Shrimpton says.

Progressive Ward 1 independent Sharron Fischer, a Ward 1 independent, offers a more skeptical view. The city council deems expensive measurements about the potential impact on low-income Burlingtoners of a proposed 35 percent tax lift for parks and recreation after school programs. Fischer cautions that the proposed shift is "ridiculous," he adds. "An increase is an increase." Referring to some of the Burlington leaders taking part in the programs, she observes, "These people didn't benefit when streets were going up, and they're certainly not benefiting now particularly if they've lost a job."

Having taken part in budget reviews for 25 years under four previous mayors, Fischer adds that she's "very wary of successive year-over-year increases" because such "seems bizarre."

Overall, Fischer says, it's really up to downtowners to decide on Wittenberger's fiscal or political performance. "In the first year after getting elected," she remarks in regard to Burlington mayors, "you're really dependent on the previous person."

The researcher councilion on the finance board — Ward 7 Reproductive Paul Decelles and Ward 8 independent Karen Paul — have been less forthcoming with appraisals of the mayor's budget proposals. Decelles says he has voluntary job as a girls' softball coach, has caused him to raise some eyebrows, having been "surprised" about giving an opinion. Paul, a professional financial advisor, did not respond to several telephone and email messages over the course of a week.

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Some Vermonters Are Trying to Stop Health Care Reform — One Metaphor at a Time

BY KATHRYN FLAUG

Earlier this month, a few dozen Vermonters gathered at the University of Vermont for a seminar titled “Healthcare 101.” But first, they had to wait for a half hour in the basement of the George D. Aiken Center for a security guard to open the reserved classroom.

“This is what’s going to happen,” quipped one audience member, trying the door handle. “You’ll show up for healthcare and the doors will be locked.”

The joke was the first of several indications that most — if not all — of the audience members at last week’s seminar agreed on the “Jesus plan.” Tea Party-esque groups Vermonters for Economic Health and the Green Mountain Patriots convened the event, which featured presentations from opined doctors, lobbyists and industry experts. Front and center among the attendees was Republican gubernatorial candidate Randy Bouchard, jotting notes on a small pad.

“We want to have a balanced debate,” said Jeff Wenzberg, who directs Vermonters for Health Care Freedom. The group is slowly gaining attention as the state’s sole organization devoted to blocking current health care reform policies. Though it’s late in the debate, VHCF is racking up single-payer supporters and asking tough questions.

Wenzberg became the organization’s executive director in March and has been beating the drum ever since — in podcasts and television appearances, and at events such as the UVM seminar. The former Rutland mayor complains that Vermonters “ignored” through a single-payer agenda without opening the floor to conversation about alternatives. “We’re you’re taking down the menu,” he says.

Although he conceded he was preaching to the choir, Wenzberg talked up the turnout. “Anytime you tap 50 [people], it’s a win,” he said.

But for Wenzberg and VHCF, it’s going to be tough to “win” much territory these days. Health care reform is well under way in Vermont, and the train he wants to slow down has already left the station. Things got rolling in 2010 with the passage of Act 86, which promises to provide “comprehensive, affordable, high-quality publicly funded health care” for all Vermont residents. That



so-called single-payer system, known as Green Mountain Care, is slated to kick into gear in 2017.

In April, the legislature passed H.898, establishing the health care “exchange” mandated by the federal Affordable Care Act — aka Obamacare. Wenzberg’s group isn’t happy about either bill but makes a distinction between these: Act 86 officially laid out goals and plans; H.898 moves into implementation. With the latter, Wenzberg notes, “a very critical line has been crossed.”

Tall, thin and slightly balding, 59-year-old Wenzberg brings plenty of public-policy experience to his leadership role at VHCF. He served six terms as Rutland mayor, from 1987 to 1993. Four years later, he took over as commissioner for Vermont’s Department of Environmental Conservation. Prior to landing at VHCF, he worked as a

self-employed consultant with the Center for Climate Strategies, where his specialty was working with state governments to design climate action plans. Wenzberg is no stranger to contentious issues. In his work around climate policies, he specialized in holding facilitated meetings to moderate differences of opinions among dozens of state stakeholders.

“Everybody comes with their knives sharpened and their guns loaded,” he says. “They’re ready to duke it out. Over the course of the year, using tried-and-true methods, we find where there is the potential for agreement.”

Health care isn’t so different from climate policy, Wenzberg says. Both issues are emotionally charged and deeply complex, and ideology often plays a role. As with global warming, he argues, finding consensus on health care

requires a process — and he claims the state skipped that step.

“Because of that, we’re relegated to armchair,” Wenzberg says.

Wenzberg took over VHCF from the organization’s founder, Darce Johnson — a mainstay in Vermont GOP circles who now serves as the senior adviser and fundraising consultant for Brock. Wenzberg says he pursued the job because of his deep reservations about the direction of health care reform in Vermont. But there was a practical reason, too. Confusion about federal policy, as well as right-leaning state politics, meant his work as a climate policy consultant was drying up.

The work at VHCF is similar to that of a political campaign. Under Johnson’s leadership, the group rolled out a few major media ad buys, including a commercial that aired frequently during this past legislative session. Although there are no commercials airing at the moment, Wenzberg says that is likely to change as the fall election approaches. For now, he and the organization’s resources are focused on education and “persuasion.”

The main message, though, what Wenzberg says is a few myths about health care reform in Vermont: first, that it’s a “done deal,” and second, that “it will never happen.”

“Initially they were very hard on the [act],” says Wendy Wilson, Rutland city’s treasurer and now a candidate for state auditor. Wilson isn’t officially affiliated with VHCF, but the group’s website promotes her financial analysis of the cost of Green Mountain Care. Her projection, though widely disputed by members of the state’s Green Mountain Care Board and the Department of Financial Regulation, predicts it would result in a deficit in excess of \$2 billion by 2018.

Wilson notes some changes a VHCF that she attributes to Wenzberg.

“Especially recently, they’re trying to ask a lot of really good questions,” she says. They acknowledge health care reform of some shade is necessary, she goes on, but “what they’re trying to do is say, ‘Let’s make sure it’s a reform that will be beneficial.’ In order to do that, we can’t have a preconceived

POLITICS



F-35 Supporters Running Ads Downplaying Noise Concerns

BY KENNETH KELLEY

More than 125 Vermonters — some of the well-known business leaders — have signed on to a newspaper advertisement in support of buying the Air Force's F-35 jet fighters at the National Guard station at Burlington International Airport.

The ad downplays concerns about the noise the planes would generate and emphasizes what the buyers say would be the economic benefits of deploying up to one dozen F-35s in the Burlington area.

Recalls Hurlburt likely to be experienced by many area residents would exceed safe thresholds for a total of only six events per day, states the half-page ad that runs in Sunday's *Burlington Free Press* and is scheduled to appear this week in South Burlington's *Champion*.

Among the signers: three members of the Pease family; Lake Champlain Clayworks founder and president Dan Lopresto; Rydeline real estate co-owner Doug Noldus; architect William Tracy; Republican former State Senate candidate Richard Turner; Penobscot Step Co. CEO Richard Arch; Scott Boardman, president of the Hulda & Boardman insurance firm; and realtor Linda Pomerleau.

FD-35 opponent Jiming Leua, a South Burlington attorney, describes the list as reflective of "Vermont's 1 percent."



Familiar Faces to Run for Old North End Seat

BY PHIL HUMPHREY

Following Rep. Jason Loferski (D-Burlington)'s surprise announcement last week that he will not seek reelection to his Old North End seat in the Vermont House, a couple of familiar folks per the names forward for the job.

Formerly 4-year Burlington state representative Curt McCormack, a Democrat who moved to Burlington in 2001, and who he would run as the two members district, the district's other member, Rep. Jill Knowlton (D-Burlington) — who was appointed to her seat by Gov. Peter Shumlin after Rachel Weston resigned to take a job outside the country — will also run.

On Tuesday, the Progressive Party put forward its own candidate: former Burlington city councilor Greta Vergano, who currently works largely full-time as sole assistant city attorney, party executive director Marjorie Campbell and is expected to run once Progressives to get into the race.

As for Loferski, the 26-year House member did not return calls for comment but said in an email announcement that he was looking for "legitimate" partners other than himself. Loferski sought the Democratic nomination for mayor last fall but came in last of four candidates.

To read the full story, go to www.burlfreepress.com

Leader of Progressive Jewish Lobby to Speak on Mideast Conflict

BY KENNETH KELLEY

Strong responses — pro and con — can be expected when the leader of a progressive and increasingly influential Jewish American lobbying group speaks on Wednesday at Burlington's Chave Zedek Synagogue.

The 7:30 p.m. talk will also serve as something of a homecoming reception for Jeremy Ben-Ari, founder and president of J Street, a progressive Jewish American lobbying group. He lived in Burlington for much of Edward Dean's 2004 presidential campaign, for which he served as national policy director.

While J Street's call for a two-state solution and removal of some Jewish settlements may generate controversy at Chave Zedek, its positions appear to be gaining ground among mainstream U.S. politicians.

Interviewed by phone, Ben-Ari says J Street is succeeding by filling a "political vacuum." Most American Jews are neither so hawkish that they'll finally assure durable peace and security in the Middle East, he suggests.

In J Street's view, the world would resolve a Jewish state and a Palestinian state separated along borders more in line with those in place prior to the 1967 war that resulted in Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem and the West Bank. As for Jewish settlements far from the 1967 lines, "They will have to go," he declares. ☐

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Trying to Stop Health Care Reform

action about what that reform is going to be. The dialogue needs to be broader.

But at Healdsburg 106, speakers rejected single payer out of hand. St. Michael's College professor and state Senate candidate Robert Lenovky argued against government-run health care. A former Canadian citizen, he warned that such medicine becomes just "another free item" in a big budget, rationing medical possibility. "Let's hand this whole thing over to that paradigm of streamlined decision making and efficiency the government," he suggested sarcastically to the delighted chuckles of several audience members.

Brattleboro physician Robert Emanon and Radiant dermatologist Dan McCullough, both private practitioners, raised the classic physician concern that a government-run health care system would prevent doctors from making the best choices for their patients; that the medically needy might "immigrate" to Vermont, and that doctors could be forced to leave the state.

Single-payer advocates and their opponents do

mention that his 20-hour-a-week job is the organization's only paid position.

For Wennberg, it's something of a role reversal. When he was commissioner of the DEC, organizations like VtRCF were a thorn in his side. He now considers "We wouldn't get in the right result without someone in that role holding that position. I have a great deal of respect for how this is supposed to work."

That is, challenging conventional wisdom. Bratt, who is running against incumbent Gov. Peter Shumlin, points out that even though the House passed H.388 with an 88-6 margin, polling suggests that Vermonters as a whole are far less supportive. A May poll from Vermont Business Magazine, WCAK and radio station WDEV shows that just fewer than half of those polled — 43 percent — favor a single-payer system; 35.7 percent and they are opposed.

"It becomes very difficult for many citizens to evaluate where we are on this issue, because the details aren't there yet," says Bratt. "I think it's important that a wide perspective of views be presented on the subject."

But why didn't that happen sooner? Wennberg's theory is that single-payer opponents got complacent during

WE'VE GOT TO SLOW DOWN THE TRAIN.

JEFF WENNSBERG

seen to have reached an impasse. The former accuse the latter of using fear to undermine health care reform. "My belief is that this organization is probably at best misguided," says Mary Griswold, a retired human rights lawyer living in Bennington who volunteers for the Vermont Watchdog Center.

The latter accuse the former of convincing the public that single payer is the only alternative to the current system. Wennberg says, "Local people buy it, but it's just not true."

As a 501(c)(4), VTHC doesn't have to disclose its funding sources. And there have been plenty of allegations that statewide insurance companies — some of whom single payer — are contributing handsomely.

Wennberg says confidentiality is important for the group's donors — 90 percent of them are Vermonters, he claims. Some are health care providers, he explains; others work for companies that would benefit from advocacy of this sort.

the Douglas administration, they knew reform wouldn't happen under his leadership and didn't act quickly enough after the 2008 election. It was Johnson, he says, who recognized the convergence of phosphorus and arsenic, and saw the need for an opposition group to challenge Shumlin's proposals.

"Unfortunately, it was a resolution that came very late," Wennberg says. "Send us back in time, and I'd be advocating for a madman back in 2007 to do this. All we can do now is try to correct the error and try to make up for lost time."

Steve Russell, the commissioner of the Department of Financial Regulation, sees it differently. "That debate is over," he says. "We had a gubernatorial election, and my time on that issue. Now we're in the implementation stage."

Wennberg is "not wrong" about a "bright man" barreling down the track, according to Russell. "We're not moving fast enough," he says. "I feel a great sense of urgency to get going." 

SEVEN DAYSIES

2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

A Decade of Daysies!

2003 was a big year! A white tiger invaded Stowe and it's still leaving印記 on every ponytail. 50 Cent topped the charts with "In Da Club." Apple launched the iPhone. Kiehl's The Face Milky once died (yes, really) at \$1.83 a gallon... and Seven Daysies launched its first-ever best-of awards, the Seven Daysies.

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Who are you?

1. How old are you?

Under 16:

23-39:

30-39:

40-49:

50-59:

60-69:

Over 70:

2. Which gender best describes you?
Female Male Other

3. Your zip code:



ILLUSTRATION BY JEFFREY L. BROWN

Food & Drink

1. Best restaurant, if you're paying
2. Best restaurant, if they're paying
3. Best new restaurant (opened in the last 12 months)
4. Best breakfast/brunch
5. Best to-go lunch
6. Best Asian restaurant (including Indian)
7. Best Mexican/Latin restaurant
8. Best ethnic restaurant (other)
9. Restaurant with best vegetarian fare
10. Best restaurant to take the kids
11. Best place to get late-night food
12. Best pizza (restaurant)
13. Best pizza (delivery)

14. Best Vermont cheese
15. Best burger
16. Best food court/brick
17. Best snack bar
18. Best Vermont craft beer
19. Best Vermont wine
20. Best Vermont spirit
21. Best bar
22. Best place to get coffee
23. Best bakery
24. Best non-chain place to buy groceries
25. Best farmers-market vendor
26. Best wine seller

Arts, Entertainment & Recreation

27. Best large live-music venue
28. Best small local-music hot spot
29. Best place to drink alone
30. Best up-and-coming Vermont musical performer
31. Best unsigned Vermont band
32. Best Vermont hip-hop artist/group
33. Best local record label
34. Best Vermont standup comedian
35. Best club DJ
36. Best Vermont cartoonist
37. Best Vermont craftsman

ILLUSTRATION BY JEFFREY L. BROWN

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

SEVEN DAYSIES

2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

- 41. Best local clothing designer
- 42. Best local jewelry designer
- 43. Best art gallery
- 44. Best movie theater
- 45. Best Vermont festival
- 46. Best local theater company
- 47. Best performing arts venue
- 48. Best free Wi-Fi hot spot
- 49. Best Vermont park
- 50. Best public golf course
- 51. Best ski/snow slope
- 52. Best cross-country ski area
- 53. Best in-state weekend getaway
- 54. Best day trip with the kids
- 55. Best Vermont inn or B&B

Media

- 56. Best Vermont journalist
- 57. Best local TV newscast
- 58. Best local meteorologist
- 59. Best local radio DJ
- 60. Best Vermont media station
- 61. Best Vermont blog
- 62. Best Vermont Twitter feed

Services & Stuff

- 63. Best women's casual clothing
- 64. Best women's evening wear
- 65. Best men's clothing
- 66. Best shoe store
- 67. Best vintage/secondhand clothing
- 68. Best children's clothing
- 69. Best eyeglasses
- 70. Best jewelry store
- 71. Best beauty-product purveyor
- 72. Best pet daycare
- 73. Best pet-supply store
- 74. Best toy store
- 75. Best musical-instrument store
- 76. Best bookstore
- 77. Best housewares store
- 78. Best furniture store
- 79. Best boutique/secondhand store
- 80. Best lighting store
- 81. Best camera store
- 82. Best place to buy a computer
- 83. Best local web developer
- 84. Best bridal shop
- 85. Best Vermont wedding venue
- 86. Best florist
- 87. Best outdoor outfitter
- 88. Best bike shop
- 89. Best auto-dealer
- 90. Best place for car repairs
- 91. Best real-estate agency
- 92. Best garden center
- 93. Best bank/credit union
- 94. Best place to buy a pipe
- 95. Best adult toy store
- 96. Best hair salon
- 97. Best places get body art
- 98. Best gym/health club
- 99. Best Vermont spa
- 100. Best mani/cu/pedi spot

Bonus Categories

- 101. Best thing to happen in Vermont in the past year
- 102. Worst thing to happen in Vermont in the past year
- 103. Most underreported Vermont story of the year
- 104. Best hair on a local personality
- 105. Hippiest Nipster

The Rules

1. Voters should fill out ONLY ONE ballot. Evidence of ballot duplication (Mark think we cast it) will result in all these ballots being disqualified.
2. Voters must fill out a minimum of 5 answers for their ballot to be counted.
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Good Things Come in Threes

Oh, my God, Colleen — I can't believe this is really happening. Seriously. It's just so awesome!

The two girls in the back of my dad's worn-out hearse were laughing on the outside. The one who was speaking was positively beside herself with excitement. Since it was the last Friday night before University of Vermont graduation, I assumed either both of them were graduating or the last day.

"So are you guys graduating to success?" I asked over my shoulder, respecting confidentiality of my hypothesis.

"Oh, no, we're both in — we're old heads," Colleen explained, chuckling. "Both here in St. Albans up about my wedding. I'm getting married next week!"

"Well, that's great. Congrats! I mean, you having the nervousness here in Vermont?"

We pulled up to where Colleen was staying — a condo on North Burlington's Kennedy Drive, rightapart of the condo. Stepping outside, the two girls embraced and hugged. These were clearly dear old friends, and both of them seemed to be feeling the remembrance of Colleen's far-up-reaching nipples. An anguish almost everyone seems to move forward as life, to move and realize, there are certain things like old friendships — ones we never want to change.

Strangely, both also in Colleen's mechanics, struggled to get back to her place at the top of North Street in Winooski. I saw a glint at the rearview mirror and saw a short, skin young woman who could easily pass for a teenager. Her brown hair was tied back except for one dark rectangle strung, tracing the side of her neck like all the way

unexpectedly when I was pregnant with our second child?

Now, of course, I wanted to hear about the circumstances of her husband's death. Like many people, I suppose. I have a mortal curiosity but, calling on my better angels, I successfully pushed this urge for whatever reason, this person had shared with me the central event of her life at this point, and I wanted to respect the confidence she had granted me, a stranger in the night.

"Uh, man — I'm so sorry!" I said. "How do you even get through that? I mean, you seem so full of life and spirit. You must have some amazing friends and family who are there for you."

"Yes, I am blessed with an amazing circle of supportive people. I love my parents so much. I was, like, a horrid teenager, a lot

stay at home mom, or are you working at all?"

"Well, I'm working — part an administrative assistant up at UVM. I do want to get back to college, though. I'm using this pregnancy. He's 20 and a year-old. It's a chick! I know but we're like 'The Brady Bunch'! Seriously any figures are like, insanely crooked, because I think things could really work out with him."

"I'm sorry. I'm so sorry!" I said. "How do you even get through that? I mean, you seem so full of life and spirit. You must have some amazing friends and family who are there for you."

"Thanks, I know," she said. "I do want to pursue my education, though whenever the time is right."

I dropped off her home on Main Street, feeling tremendous admiration for the woman she had sustained one of the most

WHILE SHE SEEMED GENUINELY HAPPY FOR HER OLD FRIEND,
THE WEDDING WAS CLEARLY STIRRING UP SOME BITTERSWEET FEELINGS.

"Gosh! How it applies also. It just wouldn't make. I'm a 226 generation Vermonter. We're holding the wedding on my grandmother's farm, outside of Woodstock."

"Marrying a Vermont boy?"

"Haha, but we don't hold it against him. He's from just across the river in New Hampshire."

"Aww," I said. "New Hampshire, ya damn state."

"Oh, yeah," Colleen said, laughing. "My family's family says that a lot."

"Are you still like living in Vermont?"

"Unfortunately, no. We live in Brooklyn. I'm an EMT, and John is an architect. I'm sure we'll make it back to Vermont one day, maybe when we have kids."

down to her skin. She was actually quite lovely — in an understated way — and her slight smile appeared to contain a raft of conflicting emotions. While she seemed genuinely happy for her old friend, the wedding was clearly stirring up some bittersweet feelings.

As we continued along Desert Street, I asked just making conversation. "So both — is Colleen the first of your peers to get married?"

"Here's the thing. You can never anticipate the course of a conversation. Even a seemingly innocuous question can evoke such startling realities."

"Nope," she replied quarily. "I was actually married five years ago. I have two girls — 2 and 4. My husband died

in battle. Now, I tell them every day how much I miss them. The other thing is, I'm a triplet, and I'm super-close with two sisters."

"Holy mackerel! I didn't know that! Do you even have a triplet brother? At least, not that I know of. Are you like identical?"

"Yup, we are look alike, that's what you mean. I'm kidding — I know that's what you meant. When we were tiny before we could even talk, we kids, invented our own language. And you might think that's crazy, but we can still communicate telepathically."

"I don't think that's crazy at all. I think you're completely wonderful. It's a tough world, and we all need all the connection we can get. So good for you. Are you a

blonde? I tell them every day how much I miss them. The other thing is, I'm a triplet, and I'm super-close with two sisters."

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In a Vermont Book of Poetry, American and Japanese Cultures Meld

BY AMY LILLY

A ledge of shoji / built between trees / these buildings." So reads a modern Japanese haiku about spring in Vermont, written by master poet **MICHIO OISHI** and translated in collaboration with Burlington poet **ANDREW MILLER-BROWN**. The poem appears in the woman's new collection, *Deepening Snow*, a book printed in both Japanese and English that does its own kind of bridging between two vastly different languages and cultures.

"American culture is really the opposite of Japanese culture," observes Oishi, a Tokyo native who moved to the U.S. with her American husband 18 years ago. "They couldn't be more different." While her adopted culture values direct-

ness, which allows for enough characters to form a haiku or tanka, Oishi says she composed these poems as mementos to her parents back in Japan while caring for her two children (now 17 and 19) during their first few years, "when you have hardly any time to yourself."

But even with the extravagances of tanka — which uses a 5-7-5-7 format as compared to haiku's 5-7-5 — gaps remain between what a Japanese reader and an American are willing to grasp from a line of Japanese poetry. Seasonal references that constitute the backbone of these ancient forms of poetry instantly evoke specific emotions for Japanese readers because of their long history of use. (Haiku dates back

to her basket. After that, says Chalmer — now the executive director of **VIA VERNON**, a nonprofit devoted to making arts accessible to those with disabilities — the two recognized their "common love of poetry and language." They began meeting "with as goal in mind other than to enjoy the process of exploring the nuances of language and culture," Chalmer adds.

Eventually, the women's conversations led to the publication of their first collaborative effort, *Red Path Alphabet*, in 2008. Unbeknownst to them, the book caught the attention of **ANDREW MILLER-BROWN**, a 2004 creative-writing graduate of Johnson State College who makes fine-

hard-bound/paper Miller-Brown acrylic-washed endpaper with an abstract image of a Monk's manuscript, and houses the whole in an enormous, embossed folder.

Fortunately for those who don't collect, or can't afford, Japanese books, Miller-Brown makes savings for less-expensive trade editions on demand using the **Express Book Machine** at **NOVEL AND TRADEBOOK WORKSHOP** in St. Johnsbury. The square paperback's front cover bears a photo of snow-blown rice branches taken by Miller-Brown's mother. The title and author information is relegated to a corner of the back cover, and to emphasize the Japanese dedication he draws attention to oneself.

Despite her 18 years in the U.S. and her authority of the poems, Oishi be-

BOOKS



Courtesy of express book machine.com

ness and self-assertion, her native one essential (inference, suggestion, empathy — qualities that define the two forms of poetry Oishi explores in *Deepening Snow*) and the much older form of tanka.

Oishi is used to exploring the differences. She teaches Japanese language and culture as an adjunct at Champlain College in Burlington, and introduces schoolchildren around Vermont to Japanese cultural traditions at the University of Vermont Asian Studies Outreach Program's field services coordinator.

As it happens, many of Oishi's poems originated in a limited space that knows no cultural gaps: the subject line of an

to the 19th century, tanka to the seventh.) For Americans, not so much. And certain images of nature in Japanese culture make Americans think of the young author. Falling pine needles, for instance, mean summer to a Japanese native but evoke autumn in Americans' minds, says Oishi.

That's where her collaboration with Chalmer, who is also a poet, comes in play. The two have met once a month to hash out correlations of Oishi's poetry since 1999, when Oishi participated in a writing project Chalmer led to gather Vermont immigrant stories. The project culminated in the performance of a dance/iterative entitled "Cleaning Customs," during which Oishi read one

great book, both of **ANDREW MILLER-BROWN** — *1000 CLARE VON KLEIN's poems* in Newark, Vt. — and at his own *PLAYWATER PRESS* in East Burke.

"I sent them a letter," Miller-Brown recalls, asking if he could use their next collection. The letterpress printer, who grew up on a dairy farm in Caledonia County, says he's been "to work with writing that's not been published before."

The pair were "so surprised and happy," says Oishi, and that agreed to about 100 poems, of which Miller-Brown chose 50. The result: 100 signed and numbered, square-format, limited-edition letterpress copies of *Deepening Snow*, at \$130 each. Flawlessly edited and executed, the collector's item uses handmade and

traps a similar sentiment when the expression discomfort at being interviewed before, and apart from, Chalmer. For her part, Chalmer acknowledges Oishi's lasting influence on her own work. "The translation process with Michiko has greatly affected my poems. They're far more imagistic than they used to be," she says. "My poetry has been far more focused on joy." ☐

Deepening Snow (kakko and tanka) by Michio Oishi, annotated with Judith Chalmer. Playing Press, \$130, paperback, \$450 letterpress. Order or learn more by visiting www.letterpressplayground.com

APP review

Oh, Ranger! VT State Parks

BY MICHAEL GARRIS

Oh, Ranger! VT State Parks is a free app available for the iPad, iPhone and iPod. It is a boon for outdoor lovers in Vermont who use digital devices. Based on the popular Oh, Ranger! HandiFinder app, developed by New York-based APN Media, the VT State Parks edition aims to provide users with everything they need (or want) to know about state parks in Vermont.

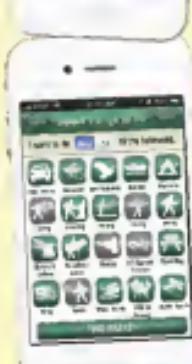
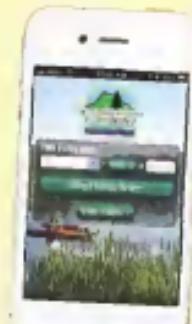
Oh, Ranger! helps users find their ideal environment with a diverse set of filtering options, such as distance from the user (based on ZIP code or city name) and a broad selection of potential activities. When I scrolled through the 52 state parks on the list, I was surprised to find myself zooming up on the park's diverse wildlife, though you could just as easily obsess over water sports or taking trails.

That said, Oh, Ranger! probably isn't an app you'll spend hours with, either; it offers an efficient way to find out what you need to know. Search results are listed based on distance from the location entered and the load times for results are impressively fast. The app is quick and responsive in general, and I encountered no technical difficulties. And that's a good thing when you're in a hurry to start having fun.

One caveat: Like any app, Oh, Ranger! requires either a Wi-Fi or 3G/4G data connection. This wasn't an issue while I played around with it at home, but considering the app is about exploring the great outdoors, it could prove inaccessible in many Vermont locales. Maybe it's better to figure out what you need to know before you go.

Still, Oh, Ranger! VT State Parks performs exactly as advertised. It provides quick access to a wealth of specific information. And you can't argue with the price!

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Quick Lit

Most adults are so familiar with the Helen Keller story that we forget how difficult it is to tell. How can readers who rely on their senses of sight and hearing imagine being bereft of both from the age of 19 months, and without language until the age of 7?

JOSEPH LAMBERT of White River Junction finds an elegant solution to this problem in his graphic biography *Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller*, published under the auspices of the *Alma Mater* (the *Center for Cartoon Studies*).

The book's first three pages offer a visual representation of young Helen's baffling world: pitch-black panels interrupted by ghostlike blue figures. Disembodied arms force a hand into the central figure's hands. There are no words, only body parts interacting. Immersed with energy as if by an infrared viewer. Only on the fourth page does Lambert plunge us back into the realm of colors, details, words.

As the title indicates, Lambert's book is intended to introduce young readers to both Keller's story and that of her basement and lifelong mentor Annie Sullivan. The author-artist interweaves these tales with surprising narrative

complexity. As Sullivan struggles to break through to Helen — a process chronicled in excerpts from her real-life letters — we see flashbacks to her own childhood, which was turbulent and Dickensian. (A poorhouse rats and a dead brother figure prominently.)

Sullivan emerges from the pages as a complex heroine: brave but also dangerously stubborn (and at times, in her eagerness, to yank Helen out of darkness, downright ruthless). We learn how as Keller became famous, Sullivan and other peers struggled to take credit, a process that culminated in Keller's "trial" for plagiarism.

This is the kind of engrossing episode that kids love of famous people often omit. Yet Lambert clearly isn't aiming to knock Keller and Sullivan off their pedestals — just to humanize them. He immerses us in Helen's world, where human touch is all to show us that the flawed woman who brought her pupil the gift of language also — just as importantly — brought her the priceless gift of friendship.

BY MARGOT HARRISON

Annie Sullivan and the Trials of Helen Keller by Joseph Lambert, Disney Hyperion Books, 96 pages, \$17.99



 SOPHIE GOLDSTEIN

SOPHIE GOLDSTEIN is a playwright and screenwriter. She's been in Los Angeles, New York, Prague and Seoul, South Korea. She currently resides in White River Junction and teaches at the Center for Creative Studies. See more of her work on her blog at sophiegoldstein.com or follow her on Twitter at [@sophiegoldstein](http://sophiegoldstein).



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STATE of THEarts

Short Takes on Film



THE LAKELANDERS FILM FESTIVAL staff has designed a provocative poster for its annual mini-festival, which starts Wednesday, June 13. The event's name appears on a wrinkled red surface in a font all too reminiscent of a Netflix envelope.

That film is part of a

panel discussion scheduled for Saturday at 1 p.m. at Lake Placid's historic PALMER THEATRE. "Do Movie Theaters Have a Future?" The question is not just theoretical for film exhibitors who screen traditional 35-millimeter prints, as several studios have announced that they intend to stop shaping reels and go all digital in the near future. Will small and indie theaters be forced to convert or die?

One discussion panelist is character actor Michael Gaston, a veteran of TV shows such as "The Mentalist," "Damages" and "Unforgettable." (He also played Gen. Franklyn Franks in Oliver Stone's *Wall Street*.) Gaston is also the LFF representative. *Tracing Fire*, a documentary he produced about seven teenage boys undergoing a community-designed life of passage in New York's Catskill Mountains. Director Peter Pekola will also attend the Saturday screening at 7 p.m.

The LFF is somewhat scaled down this year with just nine events scheduled. The Tiers series will include festival hits such as *Chicken with Plums*, a live-action drama based on the graphic novel by Iranian comic artist Marjane Satrapi (*Persepolis*), and *Searching for Sugar Man*, a documentary about Rodriguez, the obscure Detroit musician who became the voice of South Africa and a global youth. Jon Papp in Five Arts (joining *Fire* on Friday) tells the story of a groundbreaking theater producer whom LFF Artistic Director KATHRYN FARRELL describes as "Youth like a Shakespearean character as well obsessed, occasionally cranky man who ultimately had to face a terrible personal tragedy."

Any of course fans of short film won't want to miss the local North Country Shorts showcase or the latest installment of the annual Simplex at Lake Placid student film competition. Better than Netflix will be the judge: Speaking of struggling under insect houses, in late May the owner of Montpelier's **SARPY THEATER** announced to reporters that, "our financial position has eroded to the point where we may need to close the theater starting June 15th." Community response was swift. On June 11 owner **MARKUS YERGIN** wrote, in the Sarpy's e-newsletter that, "to date the community has sent in donations and removed memorials tips totaling \$27,375."

Meanwhile reader **ROBERT LUDWIG** sent Seven Days a photo (opposite) that he snapped outside the Savoy on June 2, showing moviegoers lined up in the rain for a show. Those tickets are still rolling.

Kickstarter campaigns for indie films are a dime a dozen these days, but not many of them were initiated by 12 year old directors inspired by Quentin Tarantino. **KALEEN HORN** of Burlington wants to raise \$15,000 by June 27 to make a film called *Reservoir Pups* — a "Vennus speed" of Tarantino's *Hustle* and *Pulp Fiction* and Stacks Sandwich co-owner **JOSH WILHELM** — has been experimenting with Adobe After Effects in his YouTube videos, which reveal that, for a grownup he's got some amazing skills. Check out his project at kickstarter.com.

And, while you're there, get a preview of "The Green Knight," a family-oriented locally shot adventure from **GREENTHREEPICTURES** which brought us the inventive short, "The Dragon Wall." Lamoille County filmmakers **MARC FRIEDMAN** and **BRADEN ST. CYR** have already exceeded their funding goal

BY MARUDT HARRISON

LAKE PLACID FILM FESTIVAL

Wednesday, June 13 through Saturday, June 16 at the Palace Theatre and Lake Placid Center for the Arts in Lake Placid, NY. Most films are \$10-12; some events are free. For the complete schedule, see lakelander.com/lpf2012/schedule

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Count Data

I've heard you can avoid paying a tax bill, traffic ticket, or other debt by writing "accepted for value" on it. I understand that's not illegal, of course. But can someone who is not supposed to work? I've always had the theory of tax protesters entertaining — for example the theory that U.S. Income tax is invalid because there was never legally granted taxation. "Accepted for value" seems to be propelled by some similar notion, but I'm curious if I can figure out what it is. The websites I've come across offer a convoluted explanation involving the gold standard and the Uniform Commercial Code, where nothing is what it seems — it's like reading Heidegger or Leo Strauss. I know it's all philosophical at best, but surely there's some superficially logical thread.

Taylor's, Mountain Goat, Calif.

You're right, there's a logic at work here. Grand, in logic that only a psychoanalyst can fully appreciate. However, we live in a country where the Supreme Court has interpreted the 14th Amendment, which was intended to protect the rights of former slaves, to mean that corporations are the legal equals of human beings. Acceptance for

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value. AAV for short, involves resembling only marginally more bizarre. So we agree these people are our sort. They may someday rule.

AAV is a core goal of among so-called sovereign citizens, who, depending on whom you listen to, are either household tyrants or upholders of America's bedrock values. They're philosophical descendants of the anti-federalists, the losing side in the 18th-century debate over the U.S. Constitution. Briefly put, they deny the power of a centralized state.

The sovereign citizen draws a distinction between a human being and a U.S. citizen, also

known as a person. A U.S. citizen, in A&V thinking, is a legal fiction, or "invenzione." It's to this strawman that all laws apply. As a sovereign citizen, it's your choice whether the law who applies to you, a creature of flesh and blood.

You're thinking. These people are crazy. No question there. From their perspective, though, they've *merely* embraced the founding principle of the republic as enunciated in the Declaration of Independence — namely, that the government derives its "just Powers from

do you like to be governed?" Did anybody ever ask you if you consented to be governed? Me neither. Sovereign citizens believe that, until such time that you do, you're a free man, or free women, as the case may be.

Don't get me wrong — I understand the concept of representative democracy. Even among the Tea Party crowd I doubt you're going to find many who think you couldn't run a campaign in which people could simply choose not to participate in the body politic and thereby exempt themselves from the law. The act requires that, even in the case of the free and the honest, the brave, the conscientious, the virtuous and the upright, a person's right to be a voter is a *per se* fiction. As a practical matter you play ball or sit.

Looked at in that way, neocolonialism has a certain crackpot quality to it, provided you ignore the racial and imperialistic aspects. Once you delve into the details, though, you see the whole thing is just crackpot, you know. [Laughs] A madhouse.

- Sovereign citizens contend that in prosecuting you with state law or traffic ticket, the government is simply making you an offer. By responding with "accepted but valid," you're making a counteroffer to the

governments don't make a counter-counteroffer, you're off the hook. This is based on a bizarre reading of the Uniform Commercial Code, which sovereign citizens for some reason regard as holy writ.

- The counteroffer you're supposedly making is that whatever debt you owe should be charged against the secret account maintained on your behalf by the U.S. Treasury. The premise is that it's going off

the gold standard in 1900, the U.S. switched from real money to fictional money. As collateral for its worthless cash, the feds pledged the future labor value of U.S. citizens to foreign investors. This value is maintained in the secret account created when you, or rather the fictional person established in your name, receive a social security number at birth. In essence, by writing "you're entitled, for value," it's a debt notice, you're telling the government to pay out on your tab.

One last key idea. Sovereign citizens believe the legal basis of Federal U.S. citizenship is the 14th Amendment, which created "14th Amendment citizens" under the federal thumb. The feds try tricks such as cap codes to trap the unwary into signing up for 14th Amendment citizenship and its attendant obligations. To avoid this, sovereign citizens write "TDC" next to or after "c/o," indicating they're "single status or citizens."

I won't even get into SC themes about admiralty law versus common law, the general use of capital letters in legal documents, rolling our eyes, etc. etc. etc. now. It wasn't sovereign states who dreamed up the 14th Amendment to protect federal persons. It was a hub of extremism, the Supreme Court.



Washington County Family Court is an ugly place. Arbitrarily, in institutional environments have seen better days in place, the tree around the door is duct-taped to the wall. The emotional atmosphere isn't much better. This is an environment where nuclear families frequently come to explode, creating fallout that can be poisonous for years.

Divorce and child-custody fights are difficult enough when two parents are trying to resolve their differences. But in a range of alternative family building that can involve three, four or more parties — including nonadoptive stepparents,

got divorced, Peter helped the two women conceive a daughter. In 2003, after their split, a judge divided custody almost equally between the two women and granted Peter visitation rights.

Now Peter is alleging that Mary has made it difficult for him to exercise those rights, and he further claims that she hasn't been responsive to his requests for information on the children's religious upbringing. Mary denies those charges and accuses Peter and Sarah of ganging up on her and committing "character assassination."

Mary, who is representing herself, sits on the edge of her seat throughout the proceeding while Tim Bachelder

That's partly because more Vermonters, both gay and straight, are creating families from "assisted reproductive technology" or ART.

Unfortunately, the law hasn't kept up with the science. As any local family lawyer will point out, Vermont has no statutes or case law that specifically address sperm donation. Burlington attorney Deb Lashman, who specializes in family law, says the always emphatic to her clients that, even when all parties sign a contract, there's no guarantee a court will enforce it.

"In Vermont, you're treadin' on uncharted ground," Lashman explains. "There is no case law and there are no statutes about this stuff."

Remarkably, two weeks later, Mary and Sarah, who were then in a civil union, placed their two ad in Seven Days. It read: "Two-moms family seeking local donor to expand family. Will consider co-parenting. Healthy, degreed, professionally plasma."

In hindsight, it probably wasn't an ideal way to find a biological parent for their child. Peter's ad was sandwiched between one placed by a "Bisexual married, hair-losing CDU looking for one to date in the good times", and another that read, "Feminist bimbo seeks mighty little girl that looks great in skirt for hours of muffled screams."

Birth Rights

When a child has more than two parents, Vermont family law meets a new frontier

BY KEN PICARD

sperm and egg donors, gestational surrogates, and other quasi-parental figures — judges can find themselves trying to untangle Gordian knots.

Consider the case being heard on a Tuesday afternoon in mid-May as a woman, whom we'll call "Mary," enters Courtroom 2 for a status conference related to her long-running legal battle with her former civil-union partner, "Sarah," and their daughter's biological father, "Peter" (because of the sensitivity of names, we have chosen not to use their real names.)

Sarah, the child's biological mother, wears a polo shirt, shorts and sneakers. Mary sits down on her right, dressed professionally in a long-sleeved shirt and black skirt; on Sarah's left is Peter, who, like his attorney, wears a dark suit. Peter departs a cardboard box on the table marked "They" to the left of his name, hinting at the protracted nature of their legal wrangling.

The purpose of this conference is to decide whether a future hearing is warranted to address a contentious-out-of-court action. Eight years ago, before Sarah and Mary

Peter's lawyer, dominates the discussion. Judge Thomas Zomny whispers to her, smiling, reminding Bachelder at one point, "This is only a status conference."

Through it all, Sarah remains mostly silent. More than once, the judge asks for her opinion. After a particularly heated exchange, he turns to her and remarks, "We keep coming back to you in the middle."

In the case of Peter, Sarah and Mary, there was no contract, either. The parties failed to preface the possibility that their three-way relationship could disintegrate. They never put the nature of Peter's role in writing. Is he a sperm donor? A nonpaternal parent? A daddy? At this point, who's to say? Virtually the only way to glean the three parents' individual intentions is to go back to the clas-

s, Sarah, Mary and Sarah's ad got 12 responses, from which they interviewed five candidates. Ultimately they selected Peter in part, Mary says, because he was in a stable relationship and had already fathered two children. Peter declined a request to be interviewed for this story, referring all questions to his lawyer. Sarah did not respond to phone messages.)

Mary and Sarah had met in church in Amarillo, Texas, in 1996. Later, they moved to Vermont, where they were joined in a civil union in 2000, shortly after the law had established such unions to reflect both Sarah and Mary already had children from previous relationships. In fact, #sewahsarah#Mary's son was the product of an anonymous sperm donation that she wanted to keep secret this case.

"My son always felt that loss in his life, not knowing the man who conceived him," Mary explains. "He wanted somebody who would come to the birthday parties, the school concerts, come over for Christmas and Thanksgiving, and somebody for that child

There is no case law and there are no statutes about this stuff.

DEB LASHMAN



Ultimately, Zomny decides another hearing is warranted. All three parents will have to return to the courtroom to sort out the mess.

Three-way child-custody fights aren't yet everyday occurrences in Vermont Family Court, but they do happen with increasing frequency

and ads they placed in Seven Days nearly a decade ago — ads that eventually led to the child's birth.

In September 2002, Peter placed a personal ad that read: "Want to have a healthy GWCM seeks lesbian CDU to have children with. Seeking non-custodial role if you [are] looking for a handsome, educated, stable, drug and alcohol free guy to share raising babies, I'm your guy. Let's talk!"



to call 'Daddy' We wanted that name to belong to our child."

Though Mary isn't the girl's biological mother, she says she always assumed that being a baby in the context of a civil union — with her name on the child's birth certificate — was enough to entitle her status as a "parent" in the eyes of the law.

This so-called "maternal presumption" is a well-established legal principle that, given the absence of state statutes regarding sperm donation, Peter, Sarah, and Mary's arrangement was a gamble.

especially where a child's fate was concerned.

To wit: Tim Baskler, Peter's lawyer, has long contended that her client's constitutional rights as the girl's biological parent trump Mary's statutory right as a party to a civil union. That Mary's name is on the girl's birth certificate "carries no weight," Baskler claims. As she demands payment, "If you want to put Scott's name on there, why can't you?"

Neither Mary nor Sarah, however, believed that Peter was more than just a source of DNA. He attended the baby's delivery, was there for

birthday parties and other events at the couple's home, and occasionally took the girl to his home overnight, along with Mary's son.

But Mary insists that she and Sarah were "very clear" with Peter that they were the girl's parents that he was not a parent, and that they would never relinquish their rights and responsibilities to her. So why didn't the couple draw up a contract to that effect?

"To me, when a man gives his word, that's more sacred than any piece of paper," Mary explains. "I never imagined he'd walk away. It just never crossed my mind."

In the summer of 2006, Mary and Sarah separated, a year later, Sarah filed for divorce. Before the papers were finalized, Peter filed a paternity action asking the court to recognize him as the girl's legal and biological father. His petition named Sarah, the biological mother, who didn't contest it. Mary, who was not named in the petition, says she learned of it only after a court clerk happened to mention it to her.

"It was all supposed to go under the radar," Mary says, "and all of a sudden I wouldn't be a parent anymore."

It was all supposed to go under the radar," Mary says, "and all of a sudden I wouldn't be a parent anymore."

Parenthood: nature or nurture?

Reproduction was once a simple binary matter: one mother, one father. But the lines have been blurred by ART, which can include sperm or egg donation, in vitro fertilization, and gestational surrogacy (when a woman carries and gives birth to a baby for another person, or couple, without necessarily contributing her own egg in the process).

It's now conceivable — perhaps the pan — that a couple could contract with a separate sperm donor, egg donor and gestational surrogate to produce a baby, whom the couple would then adopt. In such a scenario, five people could claim to be "parents" and seek the attendant legal rights and responsibilities.

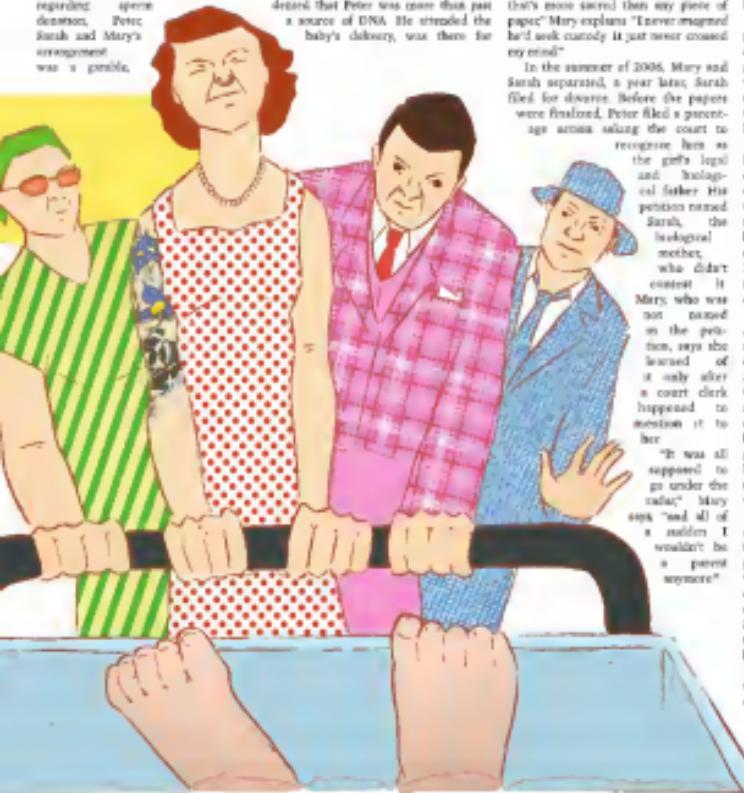
Sound farfetched? These are already known cases, on Vermont and elsewhere, of lesbian couples who have contracted an egg from one partner, which is then fertilized by a sperm donor and implanted in the other partner, who carries the baby to term. Arguably, all three parties could call themselves "biological" parents. Legal experts say Vermont law has done nothing to keep up with these rapidly changing realities.

How many families are created by ART in Vermont? Because the state has no reason to track most of those kids, it's difficult to say. It is known, though, that between 2006 and 2011, 69 babies were born to same-sex couples in Vermont, presumably using ART. During that same six-year period, another 40 babies were born in Vermont via gestational surrogacy, including 12 who were carried on behalf of same-sex couples, according to the Department of Health's Vermont vital statistics system.

While those numbers still represent a tiny fraction of the 20,332 babies born in the Green Mountain State during that period, they don't include babies who were adopted by same-sex couples, or ones who were born to out-of-state same-sex couples who later moved to Vermont. Soffer, it says, family law experts suggest that such "unconventional" families have become, well, more conventional.

How does state law decide whom to recognize as parents? The answer is easy in the case of married and civil union couples who are still together.

In the eyes of the law, both parents are presumed to be the parents, regardless of who is genetically related to the child.



Birth Rights

That's not the case when biological parents are uninvited. In Vermont, single mothers aren't required to identify the father on the birth certificate. Even when an unmarried husband is named on the birth certificate and the child bears his name, he must file a paternity action in court before he can assert the legal rights and responsibilities of fatherhood.

Vermont law does provide that the woman who gives birth to the child is the biological mother, even when her own egg was not involved. In gestational-surrogacy cases, the birth mother's name actually appears on the original birth certificate, and a portion is removed if it is filed after the baby is born. In some other states, including Massachusetts, courts can adjudicate that the intended parents are the legal parents before the baby is born. This measure helps prevent some of the legal hurdles that occurred in the 1990s when birth-surrogacy first became more common.

What happens when a same-sex union dissolves? The same thing that happens when a heterosexual couple splits up. The parties file for divorce, and a judge must approve a settlement that addresses any minor children, includ-

ing custody, visitation rights, education, religious upbringing and so forth. When the couple can't reach an agreement, their case either goes to mediation or before a judge.

Conciously

parents can get dicey when same-sex partners separate and relocate to a state that doesn't recognize their original union. That's what happened in Vermont's most infamous parental rights fight, the Miller-Jenkins case.

In 2003, civil-union partners Janet Miller-Jenkins and Lisa Miller-Jenkins separated. Lisa moved to Virginia with the couple's daughter, Isabella, and then became a born-again Christian, renounced her lesbian lifestyle and filed for divorce. With the help of attorneys

from the Liberty Counsel, an outgrowth of Jerry Falwell's Liberty University that provides free legal assistance in defense of "Christian religious liberty, the sanctity of human life, and the traditional family," Lisa Miller asked Virginia to recognize her as Isabella's sole parent.

In 2003, a Vermont judge dissolved the civil union, denied the couple's assets and ordered parent-child contact between Janet Jenkins (the non-birth mother) and her daughter. The following year, the Virginia Supreme Court agreed, ordering Miller to honor Vermont's visitation order. When Miller refused, a Vermont court granted Jenkins full custody.



Full Faith and Credit clause of the U.S. Constitution, Virginia had an obligation to recognize the Vermont judge's order. Had that visitation order not existed, Hughes says, Virginia probably would have viewed Jenkins as a legal nonentity.

Over 10 years of practicing family law, Hughes says, he's noticed both adoption and ART "becoming" away from anonymous parentage, and he believes the biggest driver is that people want a genetic connection to their child."

But since a couple involves a known donor in their lives, Hughes continues, whether rocking just his or her genetic material or something more, "that's when things become most dangerous."

"I always try to make people aware that that isn't just about them," Hughes says. "You are creating a child who won't always be an infant, who will have psychological needs as they grow up. And then there's a deep-seated need for all of us to know where we come from."

John Fishelius has spent a lot of time pondering such questions. The 51-year-old Burlington resident is probably a poster child for the full spectrum of alternative parenting arrangements. He and his wife have a biological son together. He adopted his wife's biological daughter, who was conceived before

I always try to make people aware that this isn't just about them.
You are creating a child who won't always be an infant.

KURT HUGHES

ing custody, visitation rights, education, religious upbringing and so forth. When the couple can't reach an agreement, their case either goes to mediation or before a judge.

Consciously parents can get dicey when same-sex partners separate and relocate to a state that doesn't recognize their original union. That's what happened in Vermont's most infamous parental rights fight, the Miller-Jenkins case.

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Jenkins, who was represented by the Boston-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) — the same organization that initially represented Mary — ultimately prevailed in court. In January 2006, Miller was supposed to transfer custody of Isabella to Jenkins but never showed up. She reportedly fled the country with the girl and is believed to be living in Central America.

Kurt Hughes, a family lawyer with the Burlington firm of Macleod Hughes & Toring, explains that the primary reason Jenkins won her case before the Virginia Supreme Court is that a Vermont judge had already granted her parental-visitation rights. Under the

their marriage as the product of an anonymous sperm donation. And before he and his wife met, Fishelius donated sperm to a lesbian couple in Wisconsin.

Seven Days associate publisher and online editor Cathy Reister and her partner, Ann-Ellise Johnson Johnson, had also served as a gestational surrogate for a third couple, but that's another story.

Fishelius says he spent several months wrestling with the implications of becoming a biological parent to a child he wouldn't raise. What would be in the child's best interest? What if the child wanted a closer relationship than he was comfortable with, or worse still?

"Whatever my intent, I knew the



SPORT

For the Love of the Game

Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger plays hardball

BY DAN BOLLES

A baseball fan knew the exact moment they fell in love with the game. For hardball diehards, it's a lucrative life experience not unlike a first kiss or the day you get your driver's license. For Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger, it was a moment shared by generations of New England baseball fans: the first time he saw Fenway Park.

"It's a magical experience," recalls Weinberger. "That moment when you see the field for the first time, maybe under the lights, the vividness of the green. I was really taken by that."

Since his introduction to Fenway 20-plus years ago, Weinberger says baseball has been a constant in his life. He played Little League as a kid and attended Ted Williams' baseball camp

He played ball throughout high school in Woodstock. After graduation, he spent a summer touring every major-league ballpark in the country and writing sensational stories for the Valley News. At 18, Weinberger won the baseball team's relay-pace-up relayman. He went on to cover baseball as an intern for the Boston Globe.

Now, the 42-year-old major as the catcher for the Burlington Cardinals, a position he's played for the past five seasons. The team is part of the Vermont Men's Senior Baseball League, which in turn is affiliated with a national organization. Players have to be at least 35 to play, 45 to pitch. The Cards' roster crew includes a police officer, an engineer and a doctor, among other professionals. It also includes

Gilian Carr, a son of the Boston Red Sox, Tom Stenner, a Burlington attorney and author of several books on baseball history; and an old Red Sox hero, Bill "Specman" Lee. And now, a newly minted mayor.

"What else but baseball would bring these guys together?" Weinberger asks

Play ball!

On a recent Sunday afternoon, the Cards were squaring off against the Waterbury Warthogs at Hawley Union High School in Waterbury. Before the game, several Warthogs shag fly balls in the outfield. By the dugout, a shirtless man wears up by pectoring a lot, a copilot drooping from his mouth above a sunbleached belly.

When it's the Cardinals' turn for pregame batting practice, most of them have yet to arrive, including Weinberger. Two Cards clad in red jerseys play catch along the first baseline.

"I think we're only just about right now," says one of them, naming the ball.

"Well, maybe these guys will jump in and shag them," says the other, nodding to the Waterbury dugout. "Unless they're already into the beer?" It's not quite noon.

Eventually enough Cardinals arrive and the game gets under way, though the mayor is still a no-show. Fortunately, the team's starting pitcher shows up at three.

"I'm pretty sure I threw about 180 pitches yesterday," says Lefebvre, rotating his left shoulder slowly. "Maybe 200."

Lee, who now lives in Cheshire, was an ergonomic all-star pitcher for the Sox and Montreal Expos and is renowned for his exploits both on and off the field. Lee has just driven back from Boston, where he spent the previous day doing a charity event and playing "FBI Ball" — a high-stakes softball/hardball game that he invented.

The Cards jump out in a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning, thanks to a ground-rule double by Lee that has and then scores under the right-field fence. At the end of the half inning, the 46-year-old grinds his glove and looks out to right field.

"Just missed it," he says, before moving to the pitching mound.

Burlington Cardinals: 2, Waterbury Warthogs: 0, bottom of the second inning

They saunter into the game, Weinberger's armful probably not quite par with the first time he walked into Fenway. Still, as he descends the hill to the field, a heavy bag filled with catcher's gear slings over his shoulder. He's grinning from ear-to-ear.

"Nice day for a game, right?" I say in greeting.

"It sure is," he agrees, leaning as his head toward the dugout along the first baseline. In the dugout, the Warthogs push over a net on a hard opposite-field single, following a double to the gap. But the Cardinals get out of the inning on a comebacker to Lee, who fields the ball cleanly and fires in second in a 3-2-2 double play. As they run off the field, Weinberger's teammates greet him with high fives and fist bumps.

"Nice of you to make it, Mr.," chides an elder.

Weinberger's first at bat comes in the top of the next inning. He takes the first pitch for a ball, just below the knees.

Men of the House

Meet the stay-at-home dads who traded careers for caregiving

BY ERIK ESKILSEN

The traditional image of the American father has been under revision for decades — at least long enough to make TV's first father, Ward Cleaver, look like a nostalgic cartoon and his latter-day "dad Men" counterpart, Don Draper, a pointed example of the bad old days of sexism, portentiousness and paternalism.

Women entering the U.S. workforce after the Second World War changed American culture. Then, when the U.S. economy took a nosivee about five years ago, the game changed again — this time booting men out of the workforce at twice the rate of women, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

One collateral effect of women holding jobs and men being forced out of them is that men are increasingly responsible for managing household. An analysis of 2000 U.S. census data finds that 20 percent of fathers with children under age 6 are the primary child caretakers in their families.

Here's what seven of them have to say about it.



Mark Gabel
South Burlington

When his first daughter was about a year old, Mark Gabel did the math and realized that "my salary was paying the nanny." His physician wife was the family's major breadwinner. Gabel had been an road sales and management for roughly 20 years — most recently at downtown Burlington's Chisholm High meadow gear store. The combination had worked well, he says, "when it was just about us." But when his daughter entered her second year, he had a realization. "I looked up one day and said, 'This is crap,'" he recalls. "My kids a year old. I hardly know her! I was watching myself become my father with no benefit to financially."

On a walk with meateater Simon Vines, of Touching the Void fame, Gabel

got more inspiration to change course. He remembers being moved by Vines' insight that his only regrets were about what he hadn't done, not what he had.

Gabel gave notice at Chisholm High and settled in for an extended stay at base camp.

While the initial plan was for him to stay home until his daughter was in kindergarten, a second child changed the equation. Gabel made good use of his stay-at-home dad time to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees from Champlain College, the latter an M.S. in mediation and applied conflict studies that he hopes will help him runster the world over.

He admits there are tough parts, such as the "flunking" experience of being a husband who doesn't bring home the bacon, and being the odd man out — literally — at stay-at-home signs. There's also doing laundry seven days a week and a working day that, by his estimate, starts at 6 a.m. the morning and ends at 10 p.m.

But he still feels like he's getting the better end of the parenting deal because of the bond he has established with his kids. "Not a day goes by when I don't feel like the luckiest guy alive," he says, "even when someone is throwing tantrums."

Brendan Smith
St. Albans

When Brendan Smith and his then-wife were anticipating the arrival of their daughter, they held a series of national roll-down calls about switching

roles. There was more at stake than the traditional expectations related to gender. Smith is visually impaired. He's not totally blind, but he can't operate a motor vehicle.

At first, Smith was pretty nervous — and understandably so. If his child were to choose on something, would he be able to see what it was? When they had a second child, he worries about what would happen if the kids took off in opposite directions.

Smith made it through those anxious infant years by concentrating on doing the best he could. He engaged his kids in activities that didn't require driving anywhere. "I took it upon myself to take a negative and work around it," he says. "So if you're going to sit with them, take them where I could go. Push them on the swings. Run with them. Make up for the lack of transportation. I've even taken them on the bus a few times, and they seem to enjoy a kick out of that."

He hasn't been home long the financial pitch, Smith went back to work part-time at Hanesford supermarket, but he's still there to greet children at the bus or school days. He and his wife divorced about a year and a half ago, but there hasn't been much of a change in parental rights.

"My kids are comfortable here, they have a lot of friends, and they get into a lot of sports and do a lot of community stuff," he says.



Brendan Smith with daughter Chloe, 9, and son, Finn, 2.

He also gives himself some much-needed credit: "It's hard enough being a single parent in this day and age, anyway, but an even greater challenge is to be able to handle children on your own when you're limited yourself," he says. "I've been able to deal with the challenges, and I think I've done reasonably well."

Michael Wheeler
St. Albans



Michael Wheeler and wife, Michelle, with son, Charlie.

Michael Wheeler and his wife, Michelle, can't decide who should be the primary daytime caregiver for their first child, but just about the time that due date rolled around, fate made the decision for them. The UVM laboratory where Wheeler had been working shut down. Consequently, he had already been mulling over whether being a stay-at-home dad would be a "cool thing to do."

As his daughter developed food allergies and then a sun came into the picture, his decision proved wise. "I thought that it might go back to work after a while," he says. "I'm thinking that less and less."

It's something of a role for Wheeler, who became a dad for the first time in the '70s. When his older daughters — now the mothers of his grandchildren — were born, he was working as a chemistry teacher at a small college. His busy work life didn't allow him to be as present as he would have liked. "It's in the memory of the day that kids really become who they are, and I really didn't experience that like I can now."



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Men of the House

BY KAREN
OF WHERE we live, once you leave the house, you really don't want to forget anything," he says.

Raice cultivated a freelance photography business when his kids were sleeping. Still, the memory of how high he'd climbed in his career haunted him for a while. "I would have periods where I would feel like, 'God, I just don't feel like a man,'" he remembers. "I was doing dishes and vacuuming and folding laundry and taking care of the kids. I was kind of wondering, 'What does that entail or what's next?'" He left fast for a while.

Still, he adds, being closer at hand while his kids are growing has been a revitalizing experience. "It's just an amazing thing to watch a human being develop into a person, and it's diagnostic reminders to see our oldest kid start to figure things out and ask thoughtful questions and make funny mistakes and all that kind of stuff," he says. "So even though my body feels older, my spirit is younger than it was before they were born."

Shem Reese

Richmond



Shem Reese with sons Ben, 14 and Ethan, 10, and daughter Sophie, 3

At the pinnacle of his career as a snowboarding photographer, Shem Reese followed the world's top riders wherever they roamed from January to May. By the time his daughter, Sophie, was born in 2003, however, he was already starting to burn out on his jet-setting job. With his wife working full time at a day care, he decided to take a run at being a stay-at-home dad.

Despite possessing all the ergonomic tools skills required to shoot in hard-to-get-to places, Reese was surprised by how difficult it was "just keeping up with all of the stuff that needs to be done around the house," he says, such as cooking and doing the laundry. "It really took me a while to prepare," he adds. "If we were going to go swimming, that was a challenge for me, to make sure I had everything." Living two miles up a dirt road raised the stakes. "Because

for the dad contemplating taking on the role of primary caregiver, Reese recommends, "Be patient for the ride of your life. Being patient is the key if you're the type of guy that doesn't have a lot of patience and a lot of energy, then it's not going to wear you down."

Matt Howes

Fayston



Matt Howes with wife Diane, 34 and sons, 10 and daughter Morgan, 12

Matt Howes was working part time for a school bus driver when his first son was born. The single car seat installed behind him in the bus soon became three, as his second son and daughter joined the family. Eventually, he was dropping them all off at school.

The gig came with benefits, though not the kind associated with traditional employment. "One of the joys is I get to hug my kids every day when they don't leave from school," he says. "I know my kids. My kids know me ... That's what's important to me."

Howes now works part-time as a propane technician but continues to be the primary caregiver in the family. It was

a practical choice. As his wife advanced in her career as a social worker, the family had the potential to make more money than he did.

Naturally, there have been some bumps in the road, especially when Schlecker wife began pursuing a graduate degree. "I remember staying up to the mix at 10 o'clock at night one night and just looking at piles of dishes, and my wife was at one of her night classes," he recalls. "I just remember going, 'Holy crap! I didn't realize I had to be this much work. I was just exhausted.' At a really weak moment I was like, 'Nobody ever told me this! I almost had a pity party for a moment there.'

There are other difficult aspects to being a stay-at-home dad in a fairly rural locale. Playgroups are "spotty," he says, complicated by the difficulty of arranging play dates with stay-at-home moms. "A guy going to a different woman's house or a woman coming to my house — it doesn't happen," he says. "It's too weird...and names fit."

He now acknowledges occasionally wondering what his own career will advance, but he says he's not in a hurry. "You only have a certain amount of time to influence the kids and raise them up the best way you can," he says. "I'm going to enjoy being with my kids as long as they enjoy my being with them."

Tom Schlecker

Burlington



Tom Schlecker with his daughters, Oliver and Lydia.

Tom Schlecker followed his college-professor wife to Vermont in 2008, when their twin daughters were 2. The toddler years presented challenges well beyond what every parent is prepared to expect.

Sylvie has an extremely rare degenerative neurological condition, Krabbe disease, symptoms of which include

severe sensory and motor impairment, difficulty swallowing, and frequent seizures. Only between 10 and 20 percent of kids with Krabbe live past their second birthday.

"Being forced daily to confront the uncertainty that we all face, but are able to ignore, is front and center all the time," Schlecker says.

Schlecker became a stay-at-home dad to care for Sylvie. It's enabled him to design days that allow his two daughters to do as much together as possible — a goal that has become harder to achieve in recent months as Sylvie has experienced mounting medical issues.

NOT A DAY GOES BY
WHEN I DON'T FEEL
LUCKY TO BE ALIVE,
EVEN WHEN SOMEONE IS
THROWING TANTRUMS.

MARK GABEL

School fits the bill. Sylvie and her sister, Ursa, are kindergartners at the Sustainability Academy at Lawrence Barbour in Burlington's Old North End. "We have a nice chance to walk to and from school," Schlecker says. He praises the school faculty and staff, who are "super at trying these best to keep Sylvie involved in the class."

One of Sylvie's part-time personal-care assistants is also her in-school instructional assistant, and Ursa is in the same class and often at her sister's side. "She's wicked-smart, so she's got to be aware of what's going on," Schlecker says of Ursa. "At the moment she doesn't take her sister as ID, which I just love. I try to emulate that as much as possible, even when it seems little bit bit psychotic. That's kind of how I want to view Sylvie, too. She's just who she is."

One of their favorite afternoon activities is baking. With Sylvie in a mixer — a device designed to help her strengthen her joints — she can watch her father and sister making pastries, while she touches the ingredients. "Those are some of my favorite moments," Schlecker says, adding both girls enjoy eating what they make, too. "That's when I feel like a momma. Sylvie just likes being around people who love her. That's what we work for now!" ☐

kids
The story originally appeared in the June issue of *STORYTIME* magazine, here in recognition of Children's Day.

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SUP's On

Riding the groundswell of stand-up paddleboarding in the Green Mountains

BY SARAH TUFF

It's not surprising when you look at Lake Champlain, and see you, had a boat, or a friend with a boat. Just enough wind blows to sparkle the glassy surface inside the Burlington breakwater, while the setting sun glows sheep-to-orange, casting out an 80-degree glow.

The Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center, we don't have a boat, but we do have some new friends: a gathering tribe of stand-up paddleboarders who, like many, have discovered a whole new view of Vermont. Standing on wide, stable boards with our feet facing forward, paddling on either side to propel ourselves, we aren't cramped in leeks or tipping in canoes. We're gliding across the water, able to see a different perspective while still getting in a decent workout.

Though stand-up paddleboarding, or SUP, hit the state's waters several years ago, the flood-tide moment at 2012 marks a watershed moment for the sport here, and for a nascent community. This debut of the Wednesday Night SUPer Club — a loose affiliation of enthusiasts — is just one sign of the rising interest.

This month, the WNDWWS shop, the only local store dedicated to SUP, opens in Burlington, a June 21 SUP demo at

Rose's Indian Brook Reservoir sold out. The first-ever SUP festival at Waterbury Reservoir is scheduled for June 24, while organizers of September's Stand Up for the Lake® benefit at the LCBSC are hoping to make it a annual attraction.

That's not all. Some of Vermont's SUPers are tackling white water on the Mad River; an Essex entrepreneur has developed a trainer that Hawaian (who invented the sport) are using to practice their SUP skills indoors. And it's hard to shake a paddle without hearing a Chittenden County outdoor store that sells stand-up paddleboards — and accessories to keep them in shape.

"A few years ago, nobody even asked about SUP boards," says Mike Stepp, general manager at South Burlington's Canoe Imports. "Last year we couldn't get them fast enough, and this year we've doubled our order — and we're going to sell out."

I was lured by the SUP bug in 2009, when I first wrote about the sport for this paper and bought a board. Back then, I was a pretty lousy soul on the lake and earned plenty of strange looks from passing motorists when they saw what looked like a surfboard on top of

my car. In those days, boards for sale were scarce in Vermont as palm trees.

Fast-forward to 2012, when landmark outdoor stores EMS and Outfitter Gear Exchange are selling SUPs. Canoe Imports and Steven's Dutch Oarshop Outfitters each stock it in different models. UVM's Steve Bressler expects his SUP business to triple this spring and summer. High-tech models with dual-axis hulls make possible long-distance expeditions (Quoia, Hudson River and, Montroll), while hybrid boards allow you to paddle Lake Champlain, surf Hampton Beach and watch the Dominican Republic Bay (or large enough, and you can fit the dog or the kid on the board).

When long-time surfer and SUPer Brian Seely decided to design an entire Fine Street store around stand-up paddleboarding, he was inspired by those possibilities and a passion for water sports. At WNDWWS, new and used boards are lined up alongside paddles, wet suits and a rib-bar checklist counter. It's an 800-square-foot corner of the building that houses New World Tents, South End Radio and SoLo. (Seely, who also owns surf-style restaurant the

Spit, will move to a new, 1,600-square-foot space in the old Minnie Car Care Center building in October.)

While the shop also sells windsurfing gear and kayak equipment, Seely says his heart is in SUP. "The growth curve is really steep right now," he says.

While Seely has imported Hawaiian paddleboards to Vermont, Essex entrepreneur Mike Shanahan, owner of Vasa, is importing a bit of Green Mountain stand-up culture to Oahu. There, surf-shop owner Robert Fieldell has been using the Vasa engineer to train for SUP; this summer, Shanahan will begin marketing his SUP-specific Vasa products.

Vermonters may just need some extra training for the latest frontier in SUP: river trips, where white water can add another frisson to the sport. "Rivers are just awesome," says Colchester's Jason Stenz, who runs Fiddleleaf Champlain out of Burlington's Oldridge Park and has SUPed stretches of the Winooski, Lamoille and Mad rivers. "The speed — it's like you're in a flame rule, but you're standing up."

For far more placid experiences, however, one of the best hot spots is Waterbury Reservoir, where UVM has been offering free Thursday-night

OUTDOORS



THE SPEED IS LIKE YOU'RE ON A HOME SLIDE, BUT YOU'RE STANDING UP.

DAYTON WEAVER

dozens of high-performance boards this month, and hosts other SUP programs all summer. "In most cases, it's glassy smooth, with mountains dropping all around you," says Bouscaren, who is helping to organize the Vermont Paddleboard Festival at the Waterbury Center State Park day-use area on June 28. An avid paddler, he got hooked on SUP because of the unique vantage point. "It feels new and fresh because I can see deep in the water, I can see fish, I can see the bottom of the lake, and I have because more attunement to the country in the woods," Bouscaren says.

It's a shared sentiment: the feeling of gaining a new perspective, of freedom, of friendship. Though I've had many zero-life experiences on solo SUP outings, it's far more paddling alongside someone.

During my first Wednesday night SUP party, several of us chat about everything from mud school to parenting to CrossFit to real estate as we glide past splashes at the beach, and the local water Craft & Grill.

What makes it so easy to open up? SUP puts you in that state of mind where you're relaxed, and you share things that you might not otherwise if you were on land," explains Beale. "It's very rare that somebody comes off the

laké and tells you they wish they had spot that nose doing something else. There's no easier access to get out on the water than SUP."

But there's one major barrier to that accessibility, at least when I first tried the sport: cost. A new SUP board can fetch up to \$3,000 at Canoe Imports; the average price tag is around \$1,000. While that's still far less than a boat — and while a well-made board can last for hundreds of outings — the sticker shock can tame even the most enthusiastic. That's why Star is partnering with local craftspeople to create hand-crafted Vermont boards, why Scelly is selling used boards at WNDW/FWB, and why Paddlefest, Canoe Imports, Uncle Dan, and LCCSC offer free demos, cheap rentals, or both.

Want an even more unusual vantage point on Lake Champlain or Waterbury Reservoir? Both the LCCSC and Uncle Dan are offering yoga SUP classes that summer, so you can practice your downward dog while paddling downward.

"SUP fits really nicely with the skills you need for yoga, such as balance and core strength," says the LCCSC executive director, Rate Neighauer. She's overseeing preparations for the fourth annual Stand Up for the Lake! paddleboard festival on September 6 and hopes

to attract more than 100 paddlers from Burlington and beyond.

"It's about having people understand that they can positively influence the health of Lake Champlain," Neighauer says of the event. "We have a right and a responsibility to recreate and keep it healthy. You play on the lake, and you take care of the things you love." ☺

Facebook Giveaway Exchange in Burlington is offering weekly SUP tours and demos on Thursdays, as well as an opportunity for free rolls and strategizing. Visit facebook.com/exchangebvt.

Vermont Paddleboard Festival Sunday, June 28, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Waterbury Center State Park. \$15 donation benefit Friends of the Adirondack River.

Stand Up for the Lake! Paddleboard Festival Saturday, September 6, at Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center, standupforthelake.com.

Lake Champlain Sailing Center communityboating.org

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Mate in America

Theater review: *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*

BY ERIK ECKLSEN



Nanci Muller and Michael Kuhn

A reenests on the dining scene at the mid-1990s must have reached a breaking point in their desperation. How else to explain the popularity of *The Rules*, Ellen Renn and Sherrill Schneider's best-selling compendium of *True-Tested Secrets for Capturing the Heart of My Man*, published in 1995? The next year saw the big premiere of the comedy *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, a soft-felting musical revue about the trials and tribulations of seeking a soul mate.

Of these two Clinton-era tendencies on the hard-knock life of heterosexual romance—the rules and *I Love You*—the comedy may be the more illuminating. It has certainly proved more durable. While some critics deemed *The Rules* outdated—“even condescending”—on its initial publication, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* has, for more than 5000 performances before closing in 2008, making it the second-longest-running Off-Broadway musical in history. (The *Phantom* holds the record.) To call the show a hit is like calling Facebook a popular website.

The current production of *I Love You, You're Perfect* at the Lunt-Fontanne Theater in Manhattan gives us a chance to see it in perspective. While the show may speak most clearly to the luvvies, anyone who has endured the ignominy of romantic companionship can appreciate the success of playwright/lyricist Joe DiPietro and composer Jason Robert Brown in turning heartache into humor. The plug is at resonant today as it was when Mark Zuckerberg was still an junior high schoolboy.

That the LNT staging of *I Love You* avoids feeling, er, dated is a testament both to the play and the players. A revival with more than 30 sketches and musical numbers, it presents the quest for love in short riffs on a variety of topics—from first dates to old flames, from tying the knot to the sex lives of married couples with children. Each vignette tackles a familiar obstacle on the road to love; together, they form a sequence that adheres only loosely to a story line. The first act culminates at the slot with “Holdng Down.” The second act explores the aftermath, with sketches

an married life, parenthood, dating after divorce and even dating after a spouse's death. Because this boy-meets-girl play is not about a single boy and girl, the show achieves a certain degree of universality — in the North American context — inviting the audience to connect with the comedy wherever they can, if not with the work as a whole.

Under the direction of Tim Tavar, the LNT actors play the dating/creating game with gusto. When dating is going very well, it's a giddy contact sport — a pillow fight with romantic destiny. When it's not going so well, it can seem doleful, sorrowful and bitter-sweet — all at once. To shift these emotional gears rapidly is the challenge confronting any cast of *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, and it's made all the more difficult by the fact that only four actors play dozens of parts. The LNT cast is amazingly up to this fast, demonstrating the single most important prequel to comedy.

Talent appears equally spread among the couple of two women, Thrynn Nuelle and Natalie Miller, and two men, Michael Karmel and Shawn Sturdevant. They're all solid, if not superb, singers, and their keen comic timing gives the show patches. The sketch "Men Who Talk and the Women Who Pretend They're Listening" stands out for its especially sharp skewering of male self-aggrandizement and dates. The boys segue nicely into two funny song variations on this theme — Nuelle and Miller's "Single Man Begone" and their male counterparts' "Why?" "Cause I'm a Geek."

Tavar's players quickly conjure a respectable measure of chemistry with each other, even as they speed through the revolving door of romantic encounters that defines the play.

As a lampoon of modern love, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* may not stray far from great emotional depths, but it requires considerable acting range to embody characters all along the romantic spectrum, including children, parents and senior citizens. Nuelle and Sturdevant demonstrate that in one of the show's few genuinely contemplative moments, which also happens to be its most original take on dating in "Funerals Are for Dating," the two actors play funeral guests — a

widow and widower respectively — who sit in a mournful moment to make a little time. The widow calls on the pair to download emotional genes from earlier numbers while still letting unexamined quirks fly between them.

Musical director Stacy Hertwick keeps the show moving in the wake the keys of her solo piano and shifts musical moods from one beat to the next — from creepy pop stylings to more operatic numbers in tangos. On opening night, Hertwick and cast fell flat on rhythm a few times, but her single instrument managed to buoy this revue solo with upbeats.

The simple orchestration complements similarly minimalist approaches to set design and costumes. A few pieces of furniture and changes of clothes relocate the story from one place and time to another. Stagehands dressed like Charlie Chaplin clones emphasize the roaming of the stage by rolling new scene titles into place in a window above the proscenium arch.

While there are no star names per se in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, a few sketches sound like ones "Saturday

Guaranteed" — an absurd piece about buzzing lightning into the bedroom,

and "Saved Straight," in which a lonely person (Sturdevant) warns two single souls (Miller and Karmel) against the evils of going at alone, are too easy to抗拒.

Even at the show's lowest comedy point, the cast of *I Love You* never lets up. Their emotional circumstances become more complex in the second act, but enthusiasm remains high. These four players merit respect, like that low-level daze, for largely stand through early terrors. Their backstage wigs could use a few tucks, the better to mask their exhaustion from scene to scene. But Elsewhere — for jobs well done — would not be out of place. ☺

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Curry and Cream

Taste Test: Sherpa Kitchen

BY ALICE LEVITT

Have you been to Jinn Fest yet? ¹ Lekpa Lama added as he poured me a cup of milky chha. I was waiting to pick up my lunch order at Sherpa Kitchen, Burlington's first Sherpa restaurant, and co-owner Lama had welcomed me to the counter to sit down and make conversation over a cup of spiced tea with brown sugar. It was on the house because my order was a little later than expected, but I didn't mind waiting in the company of such a gracious host.

When I brought my lunch back to the office and examined the take-out containers, I saw that someone in the kitchen had carefully blinged each one in delicate curlicues and added a smoky fire. Those small touches define the experience of eating at Sherpa Kitchen. The owners, Lama and Deena Sherpa, care about you as if you were in their home. But, much like eating at a friend's house, dining at the new restaurant has its culinary high and low points.

Sherpa Kitchen's experience started somewhat less than auspiciously with the Sunday buffet. The small-but-fat soup offered a gloopy combination of carrots, with cheeze packets for serving, and raita and tomato dressing on the side. Blah, blah, blah. Next were called dal, rice, naan, sauted carrots and fried chunks of chicken. The dal was pleasantly spiced but bone dry.

Fried packets — green-floret structures filled with onions and carrots — were flavored with an aromatic mix of spices, but I found the nearly raw vegetables inside unpalatable. My favorite dish on the buffet was steamed bread called ti momo, or Sherpa



bread, which is unique to Sherpa Kitchen. Sherpa says the shape is his own invention. Composed of upward-facing petals, it looks like a cross between a lotus flower and a sun flower. It's a fix not just for the taste but for the mild flavor that recalls the crust of a Chinese pork bun.

Our server's English was lousy, but she apologized for the slower-than-normal buffet offerings and offered everyone in my party free dessert, though we had made no complaints. It was a surprising and greatly appreciated gesture.

Half my gang of friends ordered the kulf, which serves as an ice cream equivalent as the beaten substance and beyond. The dessert is always densely creamy, almost resembling cheese; in my experience, it's usually flavored with pistachio or mango. Sherpa Kitchen's version was perhaps even sturdier than usual, like a frozen brick that seemed almost impervious to melting, and its flavoring was limited to a tapping of crumbled pistachios. Though not the best version of the dessert I've had, it was pleasant enough for everyone to finish.

By contrast, the bhatura maldo was one of the best desserts I've eaten all year. A bubbling broth of creamy curried sauce was topped with a liberal shower of cashews. Then on its own was delicious, but quartered pieces of cheese dumplings made the hot dish truly remarkable. The shevy dough was filled with equally bouncy cheese that, I'm guessing, was goatier, and the cream-on-cream combination of mace and cheese was a startling success. Once I was done, I was ready for another bowl.

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11 SIDE dishes

BY CAREN HIRSCH & ALICE LEVITT

lu lu Love

ARTISAN ICE CREAM
HITS BOSTON

"It's been a blur to us. All we do is sleep and make ice cream," says chef **MARY MACK**, The owner of **MARY'S RESTAURANT AT THE INN AT BALDWIN COOK**, talking about **LU LU LOVE**, the artisan ice cream parlor that he opened with his daughter, **MARTHA**, and wife, **LISA HARRIS**, during the last week in May.

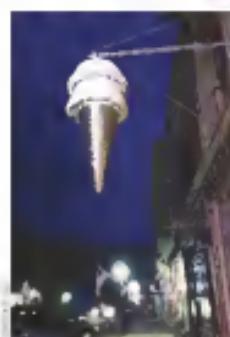
Martha Mack grew up in the kitchen at Mary's when it was still located in downtown Boston. She earned a master's at Bentley and Information sciences, then decided she preferred the dynamic life of a restauranteur in academia and returned to Boston, only she became Mary's bar manager. Last

while the family relocated Mary's Restaurant to the inn in 1994, they held on to its original 15 Main Street spot. This spring, the Mack's began remaking the circa 1880 space with work by David Dugan of **Blurry Metals**. That includes a giant mural of a woman carrying out the scoop shop.

Martha Mack makes the French-toasted-style ice cream herself with milk and cream from **HORNAMENT**. **MARIE BABY** and eggs from the Inn at Baldwin Cook's own chickens. Flavors change daily, but Mack says she always offers four standard flavors and five specialty ones, including a series of the less-sugary choices, the a la carte cookies-and-cream flavor has proved particularly popular. It's filled with her own homemade version of Oreos. The Mack's take the waffle cones themselves, too.

More artisanal dessert seekers will be excited by Doug Mack's invention, caramel-peanut ice cream. Martha Mack says her favorite flavor is caramelized banana with dark-chocolate-covered cherries. She's also proud of a scoop made from vanilla **COFFEE COMPANY** dark roast and chocolate-covered coffee beans from **SEB KETT**.

Canary in Thoreau, Other flavors showcase the Mack's own harvest, including bread ice cream, mint ice cream and strawberry-rhubarb sorbet featuring berries from **LAWYER FARM**. "Since we're founders of **VERMONT FRESH NETWORK**, we're trying to be as



wasted," Mack's lone of infusing vodkas with flavors such as bacon started inspiring parallel experiments with desserts. At first, she flavored cupcakes that the parroted with bacon ice cream, but before long she realized that "it's a lot more fun to play with flavors [in ice cream], and the shelf-life's better."

A Pearl in the Rough

PEARL STREET DINER IS REAR STREET, BURLINGTON

The past year hasn't been kind time for **MARY'S**. Last summer, she and her partner, **MICHAEL HEDDERSON**, purchased the space alongside their existing business, **RADIO 880**. Their vision for the decades-old diner and bakery — known until last summer as Doughboy's Bakery & Coffee Shop — was an affordable, accessible gathering place for locals, some of whom remain in nearby summer homes.

Lost Somewhere, after nearly a year, **PEARL STREET**

finally opened its doors. "It took lots to get this place open," says Sculdon, pointing to a recent fall between breakfast and lunch. "So far, so good."

For starters, the space turned out to need major renovations. Sculdon trading through a wall to create a door to connect the previously separated diner and bakery, re-finishing the bathroom and installing new doors. Sculdon went over each detail. She took each booth apart and "wanded" and sanded out a finished

paint" worth of gold," she says. Sculdon's mother offered advice on the process, but passed away in October before she had a chance to see the remodeled diner.

Inside the now-brighter space, the kitchen opens at 6 a.m. during the week, when morning cook **MARK MCKEE** (formerly of **Sister Kate's**) stirs up eggs Benedict, French toast, pancakes, omelets — some with chorizo sausage or apples and cheddar — and the requisite eggs and bacon.

Lunchtime brings sandwiches such as a Philly cheesesteak with shaved ribeye steak and gooey cheese; a blackened burger with lettuce, open-faced hot sandwiches, and burgers and salads. A lot of it is homemade, Sculdon says, from the Hollandaise sauce to the corned-beef hash in the biscuits that come with soups and gravy. Her lasagna and shepherd's pie may soon join the lunch roster.

The diner's first booth is a soft opening, while Sculdon, because both the space and menu are in flux, "It's pretty exciting. And we're not a bus depot," she says dryly, referring to the shade the got bid when she the 86 Pearl Street on a list of potential sites for a new Burlington transit center.

More projects mean Sculdon and crew are in the midst of renovating the adjacent Doughboy's bakery, where they will eventually serve up fresh baked goods such as pastries and cakes, as well as ice cream and milkshakes. The diner's seating will be the original **Dear Deer** booths from **Sister Kate's**, which Sculdon scored from the former owner.

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Curry and Cream

luckily, it wasn't long before I was back at Sherpa Kitchen for the aforementioned lunch respite. I passed up the \$10 special, which offered a somewhat limiting choice of dish, appetizer and entree, in favor of filling my three smile-hatched canons with a variety of dishes that showcased both Sherpa's specialties and the fusion dish is Himalayan caesar.

The most distinguishing dish was a salad of baby spinach and equal numbers of beautifully sautéed red beet and fresh mozzarella balls, all tossed in a zesty, herbed balsamic-parsley vinaigrette. The salad is Sherpa's own quirky creation — with the arugula, no less on her homeland's cuisine — but it's delicious.

While the salad transported me closer to the Italian Alps than to Mount Everest, the chowder "chub" was a solid trip to China. The hotly seasoned cubes of codfish that I'd first encountered dried out on the buffet were now fried as they were dropped on the outside and pearly white. A slightly pearly red sauce dressed them, along with peppers and onions, in a sweet fire that blazed well with the charbroil in the children's cooking.

The Sherpa to me was my first choice to try the restaurant's homemade noodles. They were extremely uniform, lacking the chew and uneven sizes and shapes I expect from Himalayan hand-pulled noodles. Still, I enjoyed the dish, with its mix of carrots, collards, sautéed onions and fresh cilantro. The vegetables would have been the perfect vessel to soak up the soy and ginger sauce had it been evenly distributed. As it was, it could have several bites without tasting any sauce. Thaga improved when I reheated the leftovers a day later. Perhaps Sherpa to me is like soup — better the next day.

When I headed to Sherpa Kitchen for dinner, momma were on my mind. Our



Laura Linn and Scott Sherpa

server warned me that the walk for the dumplings would be at least 15 minutes, so I told her to bring food out as it was ready. The momma emerged in about 25 minutes, as advertised, but it would be another half hour before we saw our other dishes. Plenty of tests were overpaid, but not enough to qualify the hour as a rath, an impatience and underselling seemed the likeliest reasons for the slow service.

The momma, however, punched the wait. The thick, slippery dough held cozily ground beef and soft chunks of onion. Under the ginger, garlic and cilantro-flavored dumplings I had in the pot, these momos had a kick, perhaps because Sherpa Kitchen's momos are Nepalese not Tibetan; these momos feature carrots and chilis, making them more like an Indian fusion take on the dish. A small, square cup of tomato sauce at the center of the plate was attractive, but its subtle flavors disappeared in the wake of the dumpling's seasoned filling.

Each plate holds 12 medium-size dumplings — which is good, because

More food after the classified section. PAGE 10

Lost in Beer Space

A frenzied taste of Mondial de la Bière

BY CORIN HIRSCH

It's not quite noon, but most of us in the crowd are already tipping beer as we watch Fred Cormier lop onto the stage, portentous slopping against his back. The lady brewer smiles as he accepts a gold medal for a beer called Greg, a hazy, citrusy stout created at his Québec Brouette bière-krämerie.

The tipping starts early at the annual *Mondial de la Bière* in Montreal. After all, these are 100 beers to sample. Of those, only a dozen will pack up awards. Standing beside me, judge Peter Slobberg explains that the beers were judged blind with no geographic and style "so you judge hedonistically," notes Slobberg, who invented (and later sold) *Pères Witchédale*. "Of course, the judges' biases get in the way," he concedes. "Some like sweet, some like bitter."

What does Slobberg like? "I like flavors in balance, so that nothing dominates," he says.

The judges prefer beers with bold flavor, too, or as it appears from the list of winners — including two stouts, a wheat, doublebock full of dark fruit and spice, and a honey-grape triple ale from the Place Bonaventure, tracking them down among the 170 or so pubs in downtown.

Mondial, now in its 18th year, turns the concrete hall into a spontaneous miniature city for five days, a smorgasbord of nano-brews dispensing some of the most exquisite and unusual beers in the world. The encyclopedic list of brews is itself mind-boggling. So is the crowd. Some 95,000 people will wander through this hall over the next few days, most with a glass mug dangling from one hand. While many serious beer lovers consider a weekend or more to be enough, as much as they can, I have just five hours and I'm headed where to start.

Fortunately, I've driven up with Steve Polowczyk of Vermont Pub & Brewery, who graciously scores a list of the award-winning beers and shares it with me. Polowczyk receives a warm welcome whenever he wanders. His good friend and former bistro-gardener — Greg Monast, who passed away in 2009 — is legendary in the craft-brewing world. Monast's presence looms large here. His posthumous Greg is named for him, as are Mondial's award certificates, each of which is called an Allure Greg Monast Award.



Honoring Monast in this way was a given for Jeanne Monast, who co-founded Mondial in 1994 and is now its president, sitting in a plastic chair on the VIP terrace. Monast explains how she was running a graphic and communications firm two decades ago when a pair of clients asked her to study the potential success of a beer festival. After some initial research,

she thought it could be a go. "So you say it would be good," she recalls the clients saying. "So what to name it with us?" I said, "Why not?"

Each of the trio landed in \$15,000 for the first event, which took place in Mondial's Place des Arts over four hot, sunny days. "There were 10 microbreweries in Québec at the time," says Monast, whose initial blend has since grown to

in perpetual motion. "Now, there are nearly a hundred."

Though Monast continued running her graphic arts firm until recently, Mondial earned her to tame 90 degrees in her professional life. "I fell in love with the concept, and with the people," she says, and her taste has broadened from the lighter ales she drank in her youth. "My palate is a lot bigger than that now," Monast gags.

Mondial is bigger, too, with seven full-time employees and storefronts in Strasbourg and Mâconaise in France, as well as in Montreal. The business is not all about canning swelling — bringing alcohol into Québec can be a complex and daunting process. Monast says, and sometimes beer gets delayed on its way to the festival, or the province's alcohol authorities ask to analyze its contents. Despite Mondial's apparent success, Monast admits, "We really don't make lots of money."

Still, at Place Bonaventure, as brewers greet each other with hugs and beer lovers stroll happily, it's clear that Monast and her crew facilitate sheer joy — and not just among Mondial attendees. When I ask for a VIP invite, in impeccable French, to try an Italian ale called *Cicale Mefiori*, two older bistrogoers collaborate to open it and laugh uproariously as the cork pops into the air.

After talking with Monast, I decide to tackle more tasting and find the award winners. I head first to the L'Île Perrot pub — where the focus is on beers from South America and Italy — to try the gold-medal-winning *Espresso stout*.

There, a Québécois customer named Gérardine Laroche doubles as a volunteer pourer. He decants the stout from *Coronel Inofensiva*, a Brazilian brewery. It's dark and powerful, almost like bourbon. (And, at 14.5 percent alcohol, it's nearly as strong.)

To concentrate solely on award winners, though, would mean missing much magic, such as Forest Bière, an Amazônia beer brewed with a fruit of the same name. Bière shares a family with mangonette, and this beer is the color of distilled vinegar, refreshingly light — only 4 percent alcohol — and citrusy. It's a welcome palate cleanser between the heavy-hitting stout and another Italian ale that tastes of pumpkin

I sample an incredibly round saison-like blond ale brewed by Le Cheval Blanc specifically for Montcal, with wisps of banana layered overasty sour notes, then two dry suds from La Succulente, a nearby Quebec microbrewery, and a steaming summer ale from Biographie, a new-to-me microbrewery in Sainte-Foy.

Montcal's exhibitors are not just microbrewing cognoscenti, however. Nearly empty is the Coors Light booth, based on a platform. Inside, a flat-screen television silently cycles Coors commercials, while a waterfall trickles in front of a tub filled with Coors Light T-Glaci, a sort of light-as-ice hybrid. "Coors did 20 years, and on the 50th try, they got it right," enthuses the amiable. "It's not like anything positive ever drunk out there." Um, but right.

The fish of the Coors booth is in distinct contrast to the hokey oily Vermont boil, which is a menu for visitors from the Green Mountain State. It's a hickory-smoked beef brisket beans from six Vermont breweries, including VtBalt and Bock Art Brewery. With so little time and so many unfamiliar foreign beers to try, I don't linger long to sample local favorites.

Not surprisingly, the food stalls at Montcal are all about the beer. I savor a pinyo kiwi-orange marmalade from Experience Kamouraska for its inherent flavor than for its ability to cut the frosty notes of a Session Tradition from Québec's Biereau da Moûte — which won an brewer, Dominique Charbonneau, a gold medal. Charbonneau is a wonderchild who began packing up awards almost as soon as he began brewing. Accepting yet another honor earlier that morning, he said, "I have beer in my blood."

I savor a sip of Rousé Ale's Huckleberry Brown Nectar (another gold medalist) from Polkaway, then head to the microbrewery Biere du Cell, where a few guys linger idly over their plots of beer draped in black lining.

The pub's platinum-medal-winning Scotch ale, Equinoxe du Printemps, isn't

on hand, but other treasures await, such as the Herbe à Bébasse, a hazy, orange-tang beer that brewer Sébastien Daiglay brews with Cara hops.

The men next to me are howling over a dark, herbaceous beer named Usance, Daiglay brews it with several malts, which he adds at the end of the boil. "I love malts, and I wanted to bring that taste into this beer," Daiglay says. A dark beer has the body to support the malted ales, he adds. Its flavor resides somewhere between stout and forest floor.

Daiglay says Montcal is a "perfect occasion" to try beers from other provinces and countries, many of which can be hard to get in Québec. "Many of these are beers we don't have access to," he says. "The liquor board is run by bureaucrats."

Like almost everyone else, Daiglay cites Noeum as an inspiration when he launched Biere du Cell — one of the first microbreweries in Québec. "Greg is a very dear to our hearts," he says.

Hopheads. Fred Cormier also credits Noeum, not only as the inspiration for his award-winning beer but for trying new styles. "He was the guy who created the black IPAs," says Cormier. "Greg is still a big part of the beer industry."

As for his own approach, Cormier says it can be both impulsive — "I take my time and let the beer say when it is ready" — and obsessively anticipatory of coming trends. "I've always done styles of beer that others aren't doing, like saison. I'm not making beer for money," he adds. "I'm making beer for myself."

What's next for Cormier? "Low-gravity beers," he says without hesitation, referring to beer with low alcohol content.

Greg, however, is no such beer, at 7 percent alcohol, it's robust and commanding. I take only a sip or two before gathering my things to leave. Home. I'm already counting the days until Biere du Cell's great outdoor beer festival, La Rive Sèche et Sèvres in Chambly, coming up in September. ☐

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

BBQ CHICKEN & RIBS \$10

MONDAY: \$6 BURGERS

TUESDAY: \$9 FISH & CHIPS



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The Burlington Code Enforcement office will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at 5 p.m. in the main conference room at 645 Pine Street.

The public meeting will be to discuss the proposed adoption of regulatory protocols for the Burlington Minimum Housing Code related to smoke detector/CO replacements in mixed use properties and 3rd floor egress requirements.

A QUÉBÉCOIS
ECONOMIST NAMED
GUILAUME LAMÉ
OCCANTS THE STOUT
FROM CÉRÉALIA
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calendar

JUNE 13 - 20, 2012

WED.13

comedy

DEPARTMENT Fun local performances bring *Answers to Anyone* style comedy to an audience-ripping environment. Spark Arts Burlington, 818 10th St. 8:30 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Info: 733-4933.

community

OPEN-NIGHT MEETING Neighbors keep tabs on the patients' latest happenings. BOFA, 600 University Street, 9th Fl., 8 p.m. Free. Info: 951-7300.

SELA RABIA BOA CONFREREE STUDY PUBLIC MEETING A panel of experts from Boa Confrere discuss the small findings of initial oil and gas transportation feasibility of the region. Hamilton, Study Burlington City Offices, 111 3rd St. Free. Info: 866-7354.

TROPICAL STORM UNDER STORM CLOUDS Some homeowners share their experiences and help out in an oil and gas study for their taxes. Heinz Pest Control, 1000 E. 10th, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. Info: 222-1828.

critique

KANT NIGHT Crafty multidisciplinary brothers, 1,000,000,000 talents and company as they synapse. Phoenix Books, Essex, 8 p.m. Free. Info: 872-3775.

MAKE STAMP! Selected original prints become works of art and joining them will be sold to local funds and associations for these: Barge Network, Lake Superior Institute, Burlington Biquip, It's You, It's Me, 264-3887.

environment

CD-OP BIP SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM Environmentalists host a solar hot water program and sign on for free solar site assessments of their home or business. City United, Burlington, 877-7408. Free. Info: 888-4890.

arts

LITERATURE LESSONS ON HEALTH CARE

REFORM BENEFITS For a patient's off-the-shelf benefit of health savings, the GreenMedicine Care, Innovation Council, 10th Floor, page 102, 10th Avenue, (Benton Harbor), 981-5110. Info: 872-0288.

U.S. ARMY RECRUITER Interested in about military life and serving their country, Church Street Marketplace Burlington, 877-7408. Free. Info: 888-4890.

fitness & health/fitness

INTERSTATE COUNTRY FAIR 100+ games, food, live music, and fun with a community ride through a natural and rustic environment. Head and body, 150000th Gymnasium Burlington, 3-8 p.m. Free. Info: 872-0942.

film

1916 EXPLOSIVE EVIDENCE — EXPERTS SPEAK **OUT** Christian anarchist Edward Blyden reflects on his past role as a film director and his present role as a historian. A film of his own, *1916: The Story of the First World War*, is the subject of a panel discussion at the National Trade Center Burlington, 800 3rd St. 11 a.m. \$10. Info: 733-4933. Burlington, 10 a.m. \$12. Info: 444-5445. *Century* pitch-in, 8 p.m. not.

TRAGEDY AND THE BLUES An angry blues turns out to be the balm of heartbreak. *Tragedy and the Blues*, 1946 French silent film. Joseph Public Library, 1000 University, 8 p.m. Free. Info: 265-2667. jpl.org/tragedy.html

food & drink

BOB AND BOB'S MARKET Crafters, bakers and farmers share their products in the center of the town. 1000 Main St., Burlington, 3-4:30 p.m. Free. Info: bobandbobsmarket.com.

CHAMPAIGN ILIUMA FARMERS MARKET Farmers, artists, musicians, mimes and lots of fun! Sunday shopping is a treat for locals. 201 1/2 E. Main St., Champaign, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Info: 202-3297.

GLOBAL STREET FOOD Come on down to the 10th Annual Global Street Food Festival, a food extravaganza, as far as the eye can see. Kevins Barbecue cooks on the ribs, the smokers, Kevins Barbecue cooks on the ribs. Mediterranean Restaurant, because his ribs and more. Healthy Living Market and Cafe, South Burlington, 5:30-8 p.m. \$10. Info: 782-1590, ext. 1.

HOW TO CHEESE YOURSELF Cheesemaking has taken a turn for the better. From the cheesehead to the everyday cheesehead, from the cheesehead to the cheesehead, from the cheesehead to the cheesehead. Sheddum Farms, 244 Main St. \$15 includes a block of cheese. Info: 988-9446.

WILMINGTON FARMERS MARKET Shoppers seek propane, food and an informed product at a weekly specialty affair. Town Green, Wilmette 43rd & 5th Aves. Info: 239-3832. wilmfarmersmarket.com

health & fitness

NETTEN'S SPORTS/NUTRITION FOR ATHLETES Parks team here is to tell or answer their physical fitness goals! 1 New Ring and Diamond St., Burlington, 877-7408. Free. Info: 872-0548.

INFO: 872-0548

JUN.14 & 15 | DANCE

The Bare Truth

If John Jasper's *For Women* (1961) were performed in only nightclubs, one can imagine audiences touting 'Live male meat!' The experimental New York City choreographer's bold work does inspire a good bit of caging — a pair of male dancers mouth, cowl and hump each other around so nothing but their biceps are visible — but this striking arena-style dance has brains and brawn. Anticipating clothed females with mask-faced males, this pair of opposite challengers viewers to consider the human body from the standpoint of both owners and viewers — and does this act to look away?

JUN. 15-17 | THEATRE

JON JASPER COMPANY The play, June 14 through Friday, June 16, 7:30 p.m. at Pyppinplace in Burlington \$27-29. not recommended for children. Info: 872-5466. pyppinplace.com



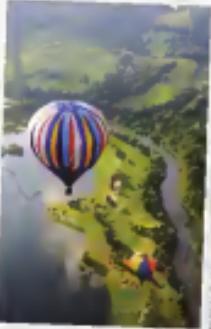
JUN.15-17 | FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Up, Up and Away

It's a bird... it's a plane... no, it's the 3rd annual Quechee Hot Air Balloon Craft and Music Festival. Twenty massive crafts daily generate at this sky-high bark, sand and storefronts can ensure a view from the top by purchasing a spot in the basket. (These are reduced rates for the basket, too!) Don't care to go up? Activities on the ground will let you spend just the time — there's aerial music, physical comedy, disc-crushing dogs, a beer and wine garden, and a craft fair featuring more than 40 vendors. Friday evening's balloon glow guarantees a bright start.

QUECHEE HOT AIR BALLOON CRAFT & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Friday, June 15, 1 p.m. - Saturday, June 16, and Sunday, June 17, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Quechee Inn, Main Street, Quechee. \$3-12 general admission (free for kids under 12). \$500 admission fee. \$10 20+ tethered balloon ride. Info: 872-2900. quecheehotairballoons.com



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Here Comes the Sun



JUN.16 & 17 | FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Here Today, Gone Tomorrow

History is an parade at the annual Vermont History Expo — and that's no figure of speech. Each day at 1 p.m., a life-sized-drone corps leads an old-fashioned procession of military reenactors, swing entertainers and farm animals through the fairgrounds, which resembles a scene straight out of the 18th century. Focused on Vermont during the Civil War era, this country fair feels like a walk back in time, where camp pheasant fields, soldiers set up camp and children play on wooden seesaws. So turn back the clock and show up for the good olddays of yore — you don't get more chowder to refuel the past.

VERMONT HISTORY EXPO

Saturday, June 16, and Sunday, June 17, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Turnbridge. \$8-\$10; good for both days; free for ages 3 and under. vtmilitary.org/expo



JUN.15 | MUSIC

Michael Franti is like a harbinger of the season — wherever he goes, summer follows. While the musician's been known to dabble in everything from punk to rap to hip-hop, the songs on his latest album — aptly named *The Sound of Summer* — are buoyant and sprightly offering. As American Zincwater put it, "He booms like a glock, finger-fingered jazzy band songs in a practically gleaming, shiny, making peace like Jack Johnson and Xanadu. Kudds even like moogy paths in comparison." So "Say Hey (I Love You)" when he sets up stage at the Champlain Valley Expo with his band Spearhead in new *Sounds of Valley* open.

MICHAEL FRANTI AND SPEARHEAD
Friday, June 15, 7 p.m., at Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction. \$38-\$42; free for children 12 and under. Info: 652-8777. frantiandfriends.com

SUN 7 2013

a.m.-4 p.m. \$10-\$12. \$20 for 11 a.m. June 29 only. Info, 218-2802.

etc.

120th PHILLIPS' WEST TOWER CELEBRATING THE PEACE See SAT 7, 10-12 a.m. \$10-\$12.**VERMONT INVITATIONAL LUMBERJACK COMPETITION** Vermont's No. 1 lumberjacks compete in log rolling, log chopping, log sawing, tree climbing, timber cutting, Burke Mountain Log Rollout, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. \$5 free for kids 8 and under. Info, 828-2820.**faire & festivals****GREENBINE HOT AIR BALLOON CRAFT & MUSIC FESTIVAL** See SAT 15, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.**VERMONT HISTORY FESTIVAL** See SAT 16-18 a.m.-6 p.m.**food & drink****CHICKEN KITCHEN** Bring the grill! The local chicken experts are here to help you cook off the flavor at the 10th Annual Chicken & Volunteer Picnic Department, Main St. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$14.**FLUGATZ AND PIZZA & FAVNS** COOPERATIVE MARKET DAY: This organic farmers market is the place to find fresh, local, organic, and fair-trade produce from the producers. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Info, 802-721-0001.**ICE CREAM & FROZEN YOGURT** The search for the ice cream is over! Come to their new store in the Greenbrier Mall. Having added the classic and organic additions to the menu, Bring a Pint & Treats, Woodstock, 11-30 a.m.-5 p.m. \$4-\$12.**STORY TELLERS MARKET** Preserves, jam and other provider tasting, tons of local food that story tellers bring. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$10. Info, 874-4300; vermontstorytellers.com.**THE PENNYWISER PARTY** The tour of the Pennywiser is a custom tour for the king or queen of the pennywise! Get a tour of the Pennywiser's multi-levels City Market, Burlington, 10-11 a.m. Info, 863-9100.**WINDHORN FARMERS MARKET** And growers and bakers offer "in-store pickup" with 100% On the green. Chittenden Mill, Burlington, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Info, windhornfarmersmarket.com.**events & fitness****HEALING & SPIRITUAL TOOLS FOR BETTER WELLNESS, SOUL PURPOSE & SPIRITUAL HEALING** In actions that combine with their higher selves through aura cleaning and energy aeration. Remond Institute Burlington, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. remondinstitute.com, 873-1000.**PRIMARIO FOR IMPACT** Come and Journey through a series of 10 life skills. These personal development tools will help you to live a more balanced life. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. primario.com, 873-1000.**64-840ES** Jeff DeRienzo hosts a seasonal stretching & mobility exercise 1004 Gentry Plaza, Burlington, N.H. 10-30 a.m. Bookings info, 874-1000. \$14-\$18.**hot dogs****COMMUNITY PARTNER-DAY BREAKFAST** Page through this issue this month and spontaneously the last two Saturday, May 4th, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Info, 874-1000.**events****SUNDAYS FOR PLUMBERS** Young plumbers gain entry to a hands-on, working or exploring activities. Birds of Vermont MuseumHunington, 10-30 p.m. Free and interactive admission. \$10-\$12. Info for members, program info, 874-2100; birdsvermont.org.**1911 BAPTIST****AN AFTERNOON OF JAZZ** Music and musicians. Tanya, Bill H. and Mark Bansil perform on piano and trumpet at a jazz afternoon including older trumpet, vocal, piano, 2-3 p.m. Info, Art Center, 874-2100. \$10. Info, 874-2100. \$10-\$12. Info, 874-2100.**SCROG MOUNTAIN MUSIC THE MAHOGANY PROJECT** See SAT 15, Town Hall, 8 p.m.**SUNDAY JAZZ** The Soul of a Man perform jazz, swing, blues, R&B, soul music. Vermont Music, 7 p.m. Info, 874-1000. Info, 874-2100.**PARENTS PICK****Blast From the Past**Why better than to have your kids play with the past? See tinyurl.com/399yq2j**VERMONT HISTORY EXPO**

comes to kids like the expo with hands-on fun. The living history demonstration that saves over the 100+ days of the expo. Programs includes a game area where young people can

try old fashioned skill walking, cup-and-ball, and graces, a game played with dried oats and a hoop. "Local heroes" are honored for a 175-year-old Vermont resident, who lived over more than 100 years ago. One hundred and fifty exhibits show off Vermont history with different stories of personal, local, and regional geological and archaeological explorations, hercules animals, a history quest treasure hunt, and a special exhibit Saturday and Sunday. Travel back in time at the expo and you'll find that some things haven't changed—kids have spray and stick and bats make for excellent entertainment.

Have you seen our new mobile site at kidsvt.com?

Easily browse and get info on nearby events!

ended events**DAILY HIGH-ROPE BIZARRE** A ropes course with team rewards. 10 a.m.-11 p.m. with options of 2-4 hr. sharpeners, and coffee, music. Woodstock, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. \$10-\$12. Info, 874-2100. \$10-\$12.**LA PLAGE BAPTISTE BIRNIE GAMES**Remond's in hand, field day and team rewards. Unravel and make a 100% achievement. Kingdom of Robotics, Northwood School, Chittenden, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. \$10. Info, 874-2100. \$10-\$12. tinyurl.com/399yq2j**events****CENTRAL VERMONT CYCLING TOUR** Bikers and other supporters EM 100 miles. 7 a.m.-7 p.m. June 14-15. Local projects to be covered include the Vermont Farm-to-Table Coalition, Vermont Farmers' Cooperative, Vermonters' Food Project, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. \$15-\$25. Info for family, 874-2100.**JAZZ FROM JAZZER HORN ROAD** Hermit horns choose between arriving at 10th and Lee passing through Georgia, Miller and 11th. All three jazzers are in 80+ minutes connecting to Skowhegan, Jasper Mine Road, Castine, 9:15-4 p.m. Info, 874-2100.**Elmer Fudd****YOU ARE THE PERFECT NEW CHARGE** See THU 14, 7 p.m.**events****VERMONT HISTORY EXPO** Saturday and Sunday, June 15 and 17. Burlington, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. \$10-\$12. Info, 874-2100. \$10-\$12.**VERMONT HISTORY EXPO** Saturday and Sunday, June 15 and 17. Burlington, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. \$10-\$12. Info, 874-2100. \$10-\$12.**VERMONT HISTORY EXPO** Saturday and Sunday, June 15 and 17. Burlington, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. \$10-\$12. Info, 874-2100. \$10-\$12.**VERMONT HISTORY EXPO** Saturday and Sunday, June 15 and 17. Burlington, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. \$10-\$12. Info, 874-2100. \$10-\$12.**VERMONT HISTORY EXPO** Saturday and Sunday, June 15 and 17. Burlington, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. \$10-\$12. Info, 874-2100. \$10-\$12.**VERMONT HISTORY EXPO** Saturday and Sunday, June 15 and 17. Burlington, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. \$10-\$12. 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SKATALITES

Friday, June 22nd
Higher Ground



WIN
TIX!

Go to www.7daysvt.com and answer 2 trivia questions

Or come by Eyes of the World (651 Battery, Burlington).

Deadline: 4/12 at noon. Winners notified by 5 pm.

calendar

TUES. 8/20/13

BUICKON BIRTHDAY 50th Anniversary of the University Amphitheater. Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, South Burlington. 7 p.m. Free. 802.865.1448

60th BIRTHDAY

WINE FESTIVE Sam Michael's Vinehouse, 201 Main St., Burlington. 5-8 p.m. Music by Ben Segers, Hostess and Heavenly Music, in which one guest should put on a tuxedo. Showers to be given to the directly descended sisters. \$60. Call 802.863.1360. **Miller's College**, Colchester. 8 p.m. Call for price info. 802.861.2021

seminar

BERNIE HIRSCH Include the following: One additional short paragraph on the subject and author info. \$10. Call 802.863.2610. World Series at 10 p.m. Sunday, the #1 Paul Revere, Montpelier. 7 p.m. Free. 802.224.0274

JOHN KETTERER The former wrestler, coach, engineer discusses his recent Denver injury. **WFC**, Colchester. 8 p.m. Phoenix Tapas, Thetford. 7 p.m. Free. 802.375.0350

WED. 20

comedy

IMPROV NIGHT See 9/6/13, 8-10 p.m.

comedy

COMMUNITY DINNER Others get to know their neighbors at a new, low-budget, style meal organized by the **Winooski Coalition for Health and Preventive Care** and spearheaded by **Research from the Community**. **Winooski Community Center**, 339 Main St., Winooski. Children under 18 are free. Adults \$10. Call 802.860.2000. **Porta** kebab/lebanese for service info. 802.454.5013

OPEN-HOUSE MEETING See 9/6/13, 8 p.m.

VILLAGE-LEVEL BUILDING CONFERENCES

Meetings for the **Montgomery** and **Winooski** communities through a driving workshop, hands-on projects, local food and music. **Winooski**, 8:30-9:45 p.m. Schedule. Various locations. **Montgomery**. 7 p.m. Free.

events

SHREPKING, REBAPTIST STRETCH-UP Local members of the **Shreksplosion** (a band of American theater performers) and **Rebaptist** (a group of summer reading theater). **Winooski Library**, Coors Junction. 7-8 p.m. Free. Info. 802.455.0555.

MAKE STUPPI See 9/6/13, 8-10 p.m.

info

LADIES NIGHT Board games — and more! Who wants to learn to play — board and strategy, dice, board games, puzzles, cards, and board games. **Montgomery Library**, Colchester. 8-10 p.m. Free. **prescription** info. 802.479.4779

LISTENING SESSIONS ON IN-BALANCE CARE **REFORMERS** (8/25). See 9/6/13, Hartford High School.

food & drink

BAKERS FARMERS MARKET See 9/6/13, 3-6 p.m.

CHAMPLAIN ISLANDS FARMERS MARKET See 9/6/13, 4-7 p.m.

WALTON FARMERS MARKET See 9/6/13, 4 p.m.

Health & Wellbeing

CHOC WILDCHEESE HOME BREW CELEBRATION 10 p.m. Fri. 8/16. 10 a.m.-1:45 p.m.

MAURIN'S WEEKLY BURGERS PRESENTATION See 9/6/13, 5:30-7 p.m.

jeets

CHOC CLUB See 9/6/13, 8-10 p.m.

CHOC FORTNIGHT **Chesterfield Kids** 9-10:45 p.m. (8:30-9:45 p.m. for those who are winning). **Winooski Library**, Coors Junction. 3:45-4 p.m. Free. Info. 802.860.5

GARDEN STORE TIME Whether you're planting seeds, getting rid of under-ripe tomatoes or in the mood for a new lawn, **Winooski** is the place to go. **Winooski Library**, Coors Junction. 10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m. **Winooski**. 802.455.0555.

PAJAMA STORY TIME **Winooski** is having pajama time! **Winooski** Library, Coors Junction. 10:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m. **Winooski**. 802.455.0555.

music

VALLEY NIGHT **Fill** by **Bliss** along with the **Naugh** with their acoustic instrument. **Naugh**, **Palmer**, **Theriot** & **Earl**. **Winooski**. 7:30 p.m. \$10. **Winooski**. 802.455.0555. **Bliss**. 802.455.0555.

VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET See 9/6/13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. **Heath**, **Winooski**. 802.455.0555.

outdoor

SHREPKING WINE **Annie Reed** educates folks on what it means for wines to be soft or in a "ready" place. **the Old House**, **Winooski**. **Dinnerware** (not **Winooski**). **Public Library**, **Montpelier**. 8:30 p.m. Free. Info. 802.455.0555. **theoldhousevt.com**

outdoor

WORK-SHARING ORIENTATION **WORK-SHARING** is a local agency that matches clients with people seeking full-time jobs, with additional information, resources, and connecting opportunities. **Winooski**, **Montpelier**, **South Burlington**. noon-1:30 p.m. 8:30-9:30 a.m. **WORK-SHARING** info. 802.455.0555. **WORK-SHARING.NET**

OPEN-SHARE See 9/6/13, 8-10 p.m.

outfit

INDUSTRY NIGHT See 9/6/13, 8-10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WINE **CHAMPIONSHIP'S** See 9/6/13, 8-10 p.m.

WINDHAM RIVER SALOON See 9/6/13, 8-10 p.m.

outfit

WILLOW LAKE A young **Peterson** presents **“Sister, *Brother* and *Sister*: A *Memoriam* for the *World*”** **Light**-**up** **theater** at **the *Winn* Library**, **Bennington Senior Center**. 7 p.m. Free. Info. 442.1022.

outfit

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WINE **CHAMPIONSHIP'S** **Winooski**. **Thru** **July** **10**. **Winooski**. **Kensie** put **Melissa** in the entrepreneurship class to see the world during the **no** **reading** **class**. **After** **Montpelier** **building**, **Stowe**. Info. 802.363.3940. **SAT** **15** **info**. 787.2820.

outfit

WOMEN WITH BBS MAP **Women** **like** **to** **the** **map** **of** **local** **midwives** **working** **in** **the** **area** **—** **plus** **midwives** **BCP** **Center** **Burlington**. 8:30 p.m. Info. 802.786.0500.

outfit

WOMAN WITH BBS MAP **Women** **like** **to** **the** **map** **of** **local** **midwives** **working** **in** **the** **area** **—** **plus** **midwives** **BCP** **Center** **Burlington**. 8:30 p.m. Info. 802.786.0500.

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Colton James Richardson was sound asleep when we arrived just hours after his birth on June 4. Sweet and peaceful, this little guy weighs 8 lbs. 11 oz. and is 20 1/2 inches long. He looks a lot like his very attractive dad, James Richardson, but he smiles just like his happy mom, Mandi Bolduc. The new family lives in Worcester. CVMC wishes them all the best.



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SEVEN DAYS

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WOODSTOCK digital media FESTIVAL

Visit www.woodstockdigital.com for latest program, schedule, and ticket information. Most events are free and open to the public (online registration is requested).

UNDER THE TENT AT THE FESTIVAL

The segment on the Village-Chefs will conclude the hub of the Festival on Saturday, with discussions, radio, drama, and live art.

Make the time your firm has to pick up the latest schedule information and to join what range of informal activities throughout the day.

TELLING [TRUE] STORIES

The art of news editing is forever changing, and changing fast. Join Emily Bell, Director of the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at the Columbia Journalism School, for a unique exploration of the state of the art, with Anchorman's Ben Stiller, and a panel of *CNN*, *NYT*, and *NY1* leaders.

PLAY FOR LIFE

• **Serious Genes** are genes that deal with important real-world issues. From Health Care genes to educational genes, these genes that teach resilience to genes that help patients manage chronic disease, serious genes address social problems or create practical and life situations through play. This is how the lab at Beaumont the Emergency Health Center in Beaumont College and Playgenics LLC, MICH, create and talk about their research results.

DIGITAL VERMONT

Editorial Team: **Debra Miller** and **Elizabeth Peltzman** (Editor/Designer)
host a demonstration session with some of Vermont's most
interesting independent digital developers • **The Digital Vermont
Innovation Showcase**

ISSUES IN DIGITAL MEDIA ART

Having armed, leading questions, we can all gather to talk about our opinions about the digital media act now.

MICRO

*A collection of works by digital artists inspired by
information and communication technologies.*



Review work by Ben Isa, Tim Clark, Linda Loeffler, Bob Patterson, Adam Harvey, LuVid, Stephanie Kershaw, Lake Murphy, and Caroline Tolka.

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Mount Tabor Building, Woodstock, VT 05091

Artifacts Gallery
1206 Route 32, RR 1
Mount Tabor Building, Wrentham, MA 02093

Cells: Opening June 22nd 2012 6:00 pm
Exhibition runs June 22nd - July 3rd 2012

PARTNERS



SEVEN DAYS @NWPL 111
ADVERTISING 101



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50



These United States' Jesse Elliott talks songwriting and accidents

BY DAN BOLLING

What Steven Shry's called "The se United States' Best man Jesse Elliott to get the story on the band's new self-titled record as we discussed with chat about the album's themes. Then while we were on the phone, Elliott witnessed a minor car accident. Weird right?

It turned out to be an illustrative coincidence. "The all country band's fifth album filled with stories about Eliot's past, people and places and all the wacky shit" that makes up life in well the United States. Talk about a happy accident. West for us anyway.

Here's our conversation in advance of TUS' upcoming show at the Monday House on Wednesday, June 20.

SEVEN DAYS: How's it going?

JESSE ELLIOTT: The good. There's always some kind of strange country overlap here. Because I'm driving to go see a band that I haven't seen in about 10 years that from Rodriguez, ya know.

SD: So nothing? What band might that be?

JE: They're called Phish. I have heard of those guys.

SD: Believe it or not, I have. So are you a Phish-head?

JE: I was a pretty big fan in the day that I went on a different road of path for a long time. I give them shit of credit for introducing me to a lot of other stuff and turning me in a lot of different directions and genres. I guess they're a gateway band or something. They also just seem to be all about the right shit.

SD: I'd agree with that. I mean, Mike Gordon drops in on this lot of country-kitsch night all the time. It's a tiny little cafe called Radio Beets.

JE: I've been to that place! The last time we played the Monday House, someone brought in those silver ol' vinyls. It was the end of the night, but the end of the night kept on reading.

SD: That's a good night. It's a nice evening?

SD: Let's talk about your music. The new record is

supposedly a concept album. So what's the concept?

JE: The whole idea of a concept album is funny to me, because if you've making an album, it seems like there has to be some kind of concept behind it. If there's not some kind of idea or musical motif that ties everything together, you might as well just post a single on an EP. So, to me, it just seems natural that what the album is about is an idea you want to unfold over the course of 12 or 15 songs.

The album is self-titled, and we were originally going to call it *Maps*, which is one of the songs. But the whole thing is just about people and places and all the wacky shit that happens in our little American corner of the universe. So in a certain point, I just assumed kind of redundant as a title. If you are about these United States, let's just make that the ... Oh, just A big truck just a little truck!

SD: What is everyone OK?

JE: Yeah. It was a slow motion thing, but it was a little surprised by it.

SD: That's an interview first for me.

JE: Me, too. But when you spend enough time on the road, you're bound to see some shit.

SD: And then write about it.

JE: Exactly.

SD: Speaking of the name,

do you ever run into any preconceived notions about the band because of it?

JE: All the time. More than I would have imagined. If I had known how much time people were going to spend thinking about our name, I might have chosen a different one. Some people take it as a patriotic thing. Some people take it as an important thing. Some people think we're an crazy right-wing band. We're probably just a crazy band with some kind of wings, but I don't know where they fall.

SD: You're the primary songwriter, but you take a lot of input from the rest of the band on your lyrics.

JE: I do, mostly because there are so many of them. It's like, if you have 15 kids, it's like, if one of them gets into the oven or something. There are 14 others and they'll all take care of each other and maybe they'll learn some valuable lesson from the combustive accident.

SD: Yeah. Stay the fuck off the carbons.

JE: Right. I guess we're really meant to put everything you can into each song, but also to be detached about it. There's no way anyone else on the answer could possibly care about it as much as you do. And that's OK, in the sense

that if you can detach yourself from it, it becomes a healthier creative process when you work with other people and have that preconceived notion. It's like a good, creative, bare-kneed as f---.

SD: What's your current favorite record?

JE: *Okla*. I'll be honest with you. We just found out we're going to open for Willie Nelson in a couple of weeks. So this going back through my serious Willie collection and marveling at what a crazy, beautiful, harmonious songwriter he is. My grandmother passed away a couple of months ago, and I was really close to her. I had the task of putting her whole music collection together. And one of the things I found was this amazing old copy of *Standoff*. So I've been listening to that a lot for the last couple of weeks.

SD: I was afraid you were going to say his reggae record and I was going to have to hang up.

JE: [Laughs] I don't know that one, to be honest. I do know the new single for the *Standoff* with Scorp Dogg and Red Kreatorfish. It's called "Well Me Up and Smack Me When I Do." Do you know that one?

SD: Holy crap. No.

JE: You should look it up. *Standoff* doesn't rip. I guess the sort of coos, do it's a pretty smacking thing in behold. ☺

soundbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 63

new record, which freaks' now, by the way. Also on the bill is local art-rock outfit **WAGA**. That band has been promoting a new record since the Fall's administration, yet still we're waiting. I'm happy to report that the wait will soon be over. The record drops with a release show at the Bean on September 28, 10 years to the day after the band's debut gig, **Serenity**.

The next generation of local concert graduates can the real world this week, when students from the Spark Arts Level 2 standup-comedy class give their final presentations — 10-minute routines — at the Up & Comer's Comedy Showcase at the Monday House on Monday, June 18. Performers include **CHRIS BERNARD, LUCAS COOPER, DAWN COOPER, EDDIE TAYLOR, JONATHAN KREMER** and **TOMMY RUEGER**.

From year to year, you never really know what's going on with the **Yankee Reggae Festival**. Is it on? Is it off? Is it the same thing as that other reggae festival that used to be the VTFB but really wasn't? Am I already high? It's confusing, and that's not an exception. In a press release last week, festival organizers announced that this year's VTF is happening in Rochester — New Hampshire. That's right, the **Yankee Reggae Festival** is not actually happening in Vermont. In fact, it's happening closer to home than to the Green Mountains. Dubbed the **Frontier of Stars** — it's "passioned" by the VTF.



— the fest will take place on August 17 and 18 and feature **MANEAT, SOFT-SHIRT, PLANT, ODESSA BELLHOPPS** and Vermont's own **LANDSLIDES**, among several other acts of regional and national repute. And also, it's in New Hampshire.

This Saturday, June 16, Borgo Council Market on Pine Street is hosting a grand reopening party — Jennifer Smith and Adele Lawrence bought it from previous owner Northern Border of Speaking Voices last March — and, to do it up proper, Smith and Lawrence have enlisted the aid of local party planners/EDM collective **WISHERS**. Scheduled to appear are songwriters **TOMMY ALEXANDER, FRANCISCA BLANCHARD**.



and **ARENA FROST**, as well as indie-roofie **HELLS DAIRY**. In between sets, the **WISHERS**' **SHRED** crew will spin all the down-tempo jazz you can handle. Oh, and the afternoon shade's a free.

Last but not least, from the Dept. of **Corrections**: Last week's column blurb about **TIME-PIECES** on **VT** and **VT** artist **SOUL REHAB** contained a minor goof. In it, I wrote that the closest TV would be coming to VT would be the **Newport Folk Festival**. Titled "They'll surely be in Montreal at La Tulipe on July 31." ☺

COMMUTERS

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Listening In

Debut album **TIME-PIECES** features a variety of indulgent, cerebral tempos, in which I share a instant sampling of what's on my mind. Listen also: CD player, mp3/track player, etc. this week:

- Steve Fairless**: *Blown Spender*
- Hot Chip**: *1000 Basses*
- Carrie Brownstein**: *Red Chair Painter*
- Miles Davis**: *Kind of Blue*
- Lisa Fields & the Expressions**: *Formal Wear*

SHOP LOCAL

and say you know it!
SEVEN DAYS
WWW.SEVENTHDAYSPAPER.COM

John Katzenbach

When: Saturday, June 19, 8 p.m. Where: Phoenix Tapas & Bistro, 1101 State Street, Burlington

DEBUT: John Katzenbach will discuss his newest book, *What I Learned About Writing*, and answer questions from within his previous novels, including *NOTHING*, *One of Us*, *Reservoir*, *The Last of Us*, and *What They Said*.



BY JENNIFER BEEBE-BROOKMAN
PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY D. STONE



LIVEATNECTARS.COM

QUINCY MUMFORD, WED & THE REASON WHY **SUN 13**
The band's first album since 2009's *Wish You Were Here*.

CATS UNDER THE STARS
A tribute to the kittenburgh band

BLIND OWL BAND **THU 14**
The 1960s rock band

SARIKA **FRI 15**
The band from India

BLUES FOR BREAKFAST **SAT 16**
A bluesy breakfast

"NO DIGGITY" **SUN 17**
90's night

THE WEE FOLKESTRA **SAT 18**
Guitar, ukulele & the banjo

RETROMONE **SUN 19**
The 80s and 90s

MU YARD REGGAE NIGHT **MON 20**
The reggae & roots

MI-6 JAZZ **TUE 21**
The jazz & blues

METAL MONDAYS **MON 21**
The metal & rock

MOTOWN MONDAY **TUE 22**
The Motown

T BIRD AND THE BREAKS **WED 23**
The blues & soul

WAVE **THU 24**
The blues & rock

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music

CLUB DATES

BY JENNIFER BEEBE-BROOKMAN

100 MAIN ST.

BOB & RON'S CAFE **Ray** (singer)

Sat 10, 8 p.m. \$15. 18+

ON THE RISE BAND **Carl** (guitar), **John** (bass), **Mark** (drums)

Sat 11, 8 p.m. \$15. 18+

RECHTSHORN

BOB & KAREN **Bob** (vocals) [jazz]

11:30 p.m. Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tues

10 p.m. Wed

SHANE RAYHOR & CAFE **Shane** (singer)

7:30 p.m. Fri, Sat, Sun

8 p.m. Tues

THE WEE FOLKESTRA **Band** (band)

8 p.m. Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri

MATTHEWSON **Mark** (vocals) and **Chris** (drums)

8 p.m. Tues, Wed, Thurs

MONSIE **Bob** (vocals) and **D. Davis** (guitar, keyboards)

8 p.m. Tues, Wed, Thurs

GRINNICKS MOUNTAIN TAVERN

Friday Night Performers with DJ

10 p.m. Fri, Sat, Sun

magical

MONK & GYM **Monk** (singer) [rock]

8 p.m. Fri, Sat, Sun

TERAPY **Terap** (with DJ) [pop]

8 p.m. Fri, Sat, Sun

SAT.16

Burlington area

BACK STAGE **Paul** (singer)

The Distortion [rock, blues, funk]

BREAKFAST CAFE **Carl** (drums)

8:30 a.m. Sat, Sun

BRUNNEN **Monica** (singer)

8 p.m. Tues, Wed, Thurs

FRANZY **Elis** (singer)

8 p.m. Tues, Wed, Thurs

JO SPOT **Elis** (singer)

8 p.m. Tues, Wed, Thurs

LEVITY LAKE **Saturnus** (singer)

8 p.m. Tues, Wed, Thurs

MONKEYTHREE **Les** (singer)

8 p.m. Tues, Wed, Thurs

NESTRADE **Les** (singer)

8 p.m. Fri, Sat, Sun

THE WEE FOLKESTRA **Justin** (drums)

8 p.m. Fri, Sat, Sun

SHAKA KABA BELL **The** [blues]

8 p.m. Fri, Sat, Sun

SHAKA KABA BELL **Les** (singer)

8 p.m. Fri, Sat, Sun

SHAKA KABA BELL **Monica** (singer)

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SHAKA KABA BELL **Paul** (singer)

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CENTRAL

BAITING **Mike** (singer)

7 p.m. Tues, Wed, Thurs

CHARLES B. TROTT **Topics** [Rock, blues]

10 p.m. Fri, Sat, Sun

TRUMBO MUSIC HALL **Revised 1920s**

8 p.m. Tuesdays, Fridays, Sat, Sun

CHAMPION HALL **Blues**

9 p.m. Tues

CITY LIGHTS **Carrie** [folk]

8 p.m. Tues, Wed, Thurs

GOAT **Goat** [underground]

9 p.m. Fri, Sat, Sun

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REVIEW *this*



Grace Potter & the Nocturnals, *The Lion The Beast The Beat*

GRACE POTTER RECORDS, CD, \$14.98, (800)234-2343

Never has a Vermont musician been more polarizing than Grace Potter. Even fans, already swayed at pango or pants depending on your predilection for pan手s, have never been quite the hometown rockin' that comes with pop stardom. Obviously. Plus see stars, rock legends. But pop stardom is a different breed. Partica larly for GPN, who have long taken alibis, unapologetically and in no uncertain terms, at the minimum. In a state such as Vermont, which prizes down-home ethics and earnestness, Grace and Co. present a singular conundrum. Critics – ledging at times, writers for this paper – have often maligned the band for pandering to commercial success. Fan take pride in the fact that GPN have stayed close to their Vermont roots while making it on a national stage. And here's the thing: They're both right.

GPN's new record, *The Lion The Beast The Beat*, will likely prove just as divisive. It is a highly stylized and sometimes acerbic album that cynics will likely find an essence of the band selling out – whatever that means in this age of indie-rock art commerce. GPN heads will champion the record to the next stage in GPN's artistic evolution, citing the wealth of new, hip influences that make up the band's stand-bass-rock formula – such as the Arcade Fire-esque tribal crush of the title track, and the Beach House-like haze that pervades several cuts. Cynics will point to those same hip influences and say GPN are regurgitating the work of

superior bands. Potterheads will tell those cynics to kick off.

Again, there is truth on both sides. The Lion is the band's happiest-sounding record to date. That's in part due to the Black Keys' Dan Auerbach, who produced and co-wrote three songs for the album – and whose music, by the way, shows up in more or less commercial than Jon Hamm. On the flip side, GPN's label, Hollywood Records, is a subsidiary of Disney Music Group, which is not exactly a pillar of artistic integrity – and could well be the root of much of the surrounding cynicism.

In the end, *The Lion The Beast The Beast* will likely propel GPN to new heights of cynicism. As a vocalista, Grace has never sounded stronger. And her Nocturnals, particularly guitarist Scott Tourtell, continue to be a force behind her – or at least have the good sense to stay the hell out of her way. *The Lion* is a solid mainstream pop record and should garner the band still more accolades – and perhaps a commercial or two, by potentially generating more criticism. And the circle of life continues.

Grace Potter & the Nocturnals

celebrate the release of

The Lion The Beast with a show at

the Higher Ground Ballroom this Wednesday, June 12.

— GLEN BURLES

April Patterson *Clemens, Heart in a Golden Cup*

(SELF-RELEASED CD, BURLINBORG)

Once upon a time, in a land not so far away, young lovers met blithely and parted tragically. So is the story given on April Patterson Clemens' latest, *Heart in a Golden Cup*. In an album that's two parts Petty克制, two parts Beach House, Clemens weaves a haunting neofolk tapestry of love, loss and longing.

When she sings, Clemens channels amorous spirits with mere earth tones that bonds itself ethereally, the way water bonds an image. Ghosts seem to wander through one song to the next, on the coattails of quiver of Clemens' voice. *Heart in a Golden Cup* sounds as if it were recorded in a hazy space, an ancient forest or medieval cathedral. Soliloquy, echoing social-outcast solitude, shadows throughout the album. The poetry of Clemens' lyrics and the beauty of her voice, accompanied by a simple, steady guitar, are at the heart of this album.

Heart is rich with literary allusion and moonlighting. Clemens' ballads linger in the instant and emotional realms, recalling mythology and fable, as well as imagery you'd likely find in Mitoiki, Biroki, Bihaku and Kezai's lonely nightingale, gods and demons, gardens, and forest clearings. Clemens' pastoral vision fit the traditional ballad form that dominates this album.

"If By Chance These Words Should Find You" is one of those ballads – and is a meandering six minutes and 36 seconds, of a bucolic album opener. The song follows a protagonist as she reflects on missing her lover while traveling from small mountain towns to broken kingdoms.

Slow and reflective, "Don't Take Away My Dreams or My Angels With You," nods to the Greek myth of Hades and Persephone and Milton's *Paradise Lost*. In a drawing country twang, Clemens delivers an allegory about balance.

Despite her musical meanderings in medieval kingdoms, Clemens brings it home with "Desty Town Blues," singing, "Everyone wants a flag / is we way all their pain / a banner to



much for / sa-to live not in vain / I have burnin'every flag / that has been held out to me / And I've pledged my allegiance / to the truth that has been."

The album's most haunting song comes last, "Cool Blue Morning." Reassuring with sadness and longing. As Clemens sings subdued and veteran phrasa such as "ah, my love" and "Never was," some listeners might envision the ghost of Catherine. Lingerin near a sun rise the believe in Bleakness. The album concludes with relentless uncertainty.

April Patterson Clemens plays the Radio Bean in Burlington this Sunday, June 17. *Heart in a Golden Cup* is available on iTunes.

— ELIJAH JARWICK

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GET YOUR MUSIC REVIEWED!

BY GLEN BURLES, AN INDEPENDENT WRITER OF BANDS AND MUSIC IN VT. TESTIMONY TO US
1511 BURLINBORG, 877-232-2388, CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820, BURLINBORG, VT 05401

TUE, 6/16 10 PM

MARGARET WEAVER Host, *Wednesday, the 14th*; *7:30* p.m. Chicago (at age 100); *10* p.m. \$3

MONKEY'S OLD BROWN TAVERN Open Mic, 8 p.m. Free

METROTEA 7 Hosts *Just like Broto*; *Learn Therapeutic DJ*; *Chicago PhotoShare* (load art inventory); *Signs*; *Recess*; *10* p.m.

ON TAP BAR & GRILL *Enter into Top Hat Entertainment*; *Topics*; *Free*

BARBERSHOP *Barbershop (regional)*; 8 p.m. *10* p.m. *11* p.m. *12* a.m. *Free*

BUDDY VOLKMAN *Chicago Marathon Day*; *10* a.m. *Free*; *Upstate International with Super Kingpins*; *8* p.m. *Free*; *Chicago Mitchell House*; *10* p.m. *Free*

BUDDY VOLKMAN'S BLUE ROOM *Bar Room*; *Reserve*; *8* p.m. *Free*

T BONER RESTAURANT AND BAR *Waka with David & Koenig*; *Topics*; *Free*

eventcentral

BACK TO VIBRANT 1980 *Jenni's*; *10* a.m. *11* p.m. *Free*; *Monterey 1980*; *10* p.m. *Free*

CHARLIE Q.T. *Karaoke*; *8* p.m. *Free*

champagnecoffee

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS *Travel Night*; *7 p.m.* *Host: Monette*; *10* a.m. *11 p.m.* *Free*

northwest

BREAKFAST *Never Allday (jazz)*; *10* a.m. *11 p.m.* *Free*

THE HIVE PIZZERIA & PUB *Chicago*; *Greater Union*; *Food & Beverage*; *Signs*; *Free*

HODGE'S *Open Mic*; *10* p.m. *11* p.m. *Free*

WED. 20

Barbington Avenue

102 LOUNGE *Hosted with DJ Craig*; *10* p.m. *11* p.m. *Free*

BREAKAWAY CAFE *Java Attic*; *11* p.m. *Free*

CLAN HATERS DRUGSTORE *Jeff Ross*; *10* p.m. *11* p.m. *Free*

FRANNY'S 20 *Kids*; *11* p.m. *11:30* p.m. *Free*

MONKIE'S RESTAURANT & BOTTICHELI *Chicago*; *Monkies Lounge*; *Grand Jury*; *One-Hit Singles*; *General Personality*



THE D.J. IN PINK FOREVER | EXPERIMENTAL

Holmesdale Reservoir *10* a.m. *10* p.m. *Free*

MANHATTAN PIZZA & PUB *Steel Mic* with *Andy Lodge*; *10* p.m. *Free*

MARSHAL'S *10* a.m. *11* p.m. *Free*; *Photo Center*; *10* a.m. *11* p.m. *Free*

MECHMIX *Forrest Park Gang of Weevils*; *ice Racing Saison*; *rock*; *bowie*; *9* p.m. *11* p.m. *Free*

ONE PEPPER SPILL *Open Mic* with *Spicy Hanoi*; *10* p.m. *Free*

ON TAP BARS & GRILL *Karaoke*; *11* p.m. *Free*

PARIS BIRKIN *Art in Afterworks*; *Young & Restless*; *Signs*; *Decor*; *General Personality*; *10* p.m. *Free*

RESONANCE *10* a.m. *11* p.m. *Free*; *Hot Smokes*; *9 p.m.* *Free*; *Montage Social Club* (*Montgomery*); *11* p.m. *Free*

Drum Machine

On the surface, **MAN FOREVER**'s drum-centric repetition drum appears to be an exercise in monotony. But these hypnotic, single-stroke drumrolls tell the human mind to analyze, calculate, before bursting and blooming into shifting swirls of noise, as fleeting as they are explosive. This Sunday, June 17, the band plays the Monkey House in Winooski with support from locals **HWY 87** and **EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE**.

MEADAD *Joshua (born Karel) (most)*; *7* p.m. *Free*; *CD*; *Call (info)*; *10* p.m. *Free*

NEW JERSEY BLUES BROTHER *CD*; *10* p.m. *Free*

THE OAKS RESTAURANT AND BARS *Open Mic* with *Billie Jean*; *8* p.m. *Free*

OVERDRIVE *Art in Afterworks*; *10* p.m. *Free*

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STEVIE NICKS

Retrospective Reflections

Carol MacDonald at VCAM/RETN

BY AMY RAHM

On a sunny day in June, Carol MacDonald walks beside a glass countertop, swish with green-colored shards of colorful glass. At 66, she is tall and slim, with piercing, sea-green eyes and cropped, silvery hair. As she sits, MacDonald wipes two bright blobs of translucent ink from her arms with a laugh. In the lofty confines of her studio, hundreds of her artworks cover the walls almost edge-to-edge, evidence of her years of dedicated work, consummate skill and singular vision at the printing press.

This month, MacDonald's 40-year retrospective exhibition, "The Thread," opens at the Vermont Community Access Media (VCAM) and neighboring Regional Educational Technology Network (RETN) spaces of Flynn Avenue. The show, which includes some 92 pieces from MacDonald's prolific career, resonates with skill and intelligence as it documents the development of her oeuvre over the years. "Looking back, it's interesting for me to see that I've been making viable work for 40 years," she says. "The ideas still stand up."

"There is a way that all looks together in terms of my life and work," MacDonald continues. "I really has been integrated with the path of my journey to date."

Some of the earliest works in the show are from MacDonald's "Portrait" series from the late 1970s. In those works, she struggled to define herself as an artist. "In 1975 and '76 I was trying to figure out who I was in the world," she remembers. In several works from the "Portrait" series, detailed domestic, interior scenes surround outlined, faceless figures, voids against the surface of the surrounding space. "I've always felt that the minute there's a person or figure in a piece, it becomes



the focus," MacDonald explains. "I was interested in how to do a portrait differently by defining the person by the space around her."

The series coincides with the artist's early years in Vermont, soon after she relocated from Bedford, NY, in the mid-70s.

MacDonald's fascination with the spaces and tectonics of domesticity became more pronounced in the following decade, as she worked at her studio while raising four children. MacDonald, who was a strong proponent of women's equality in the arts, remembers the tension between her activism and her life at home.

"One of the things I noticed about the women's consciousness at that time was a real designation of housework," she says. "You just weren't supposed to do it, but then, who was going to do it? So I thought, if I had to do all this repetitive housework, why not celebrate it? Why

not point the beauty of the laundry on the line?"

The artist's works from this period reflect the playful, romantic tangle of toys over the carpet, the lyrical arrangement of clean clothes on the line and colored stacks of laundry.

LOOKING BACK, IT'S INTERESTING FOR ME TO SEE THAT I'VE BEEN MAKING VIABLE WORK FOR 40 YEARS.

CAROL MACDONALD



MacDonald's "Kimonos" series from the 1990s led her to come to terms with early sexual trauma. Of that series the writer, "Learning to trust my intuition and work from an internal, feeling source, I developed images of wounds, cocoon, nests and gardens, looking for the wholeness that embraces both the light and the dark."

In the early 2000s, MacDonald turned to themes of community action, healing and consciousness, using the imagery of birds and nests to consider the interconnectedness of individual lives. She writes that birds "live both on the land and in the sky." She sees a kinship with them, as her works connect the often-separate spheres of her inner spiritual life and her public activism. In

the wake of 9/11, MacDonald's works featured birds as cooperative creatures that pack a healing thread together and bring it to the nest. Even in the birds' absence, nests are pictured as evidence of their constructive ethos.

In "Seeds of Hope" from 2006, a fiery red nest aglow two halves of a torn

sheet of paper, the separation widening to a yawning gap at the top. Delicate white threads stitch the two halves together, seeming to repair the split seedpods left in the air from the nest, floating upward and across the divide. "Sewing, for me, is about repairing things, about bringing things that are apart together," MacDonald explains.

Her knitting works from the past few years are among the artist's most subtle and intricate. They are masterpieces of general disarray that extend the metaphor of thread held at the basis of the birds. The last pieces seem freer in style, and more joyful.

In MacDonald's most recent works, "the thread" becomes strong. The artist began playing cells at 2006 and is fascinated with what she calls the "texture" of that instrument's music. Her colleagues seem a fertile beginning as she explores how to visually express some textures.

MacDonald's aptly named retrospective, "The Thread," avails the rich fiber-like interlocking worlds of our four decades: a masterful synthesis of a personal, spiritual and political journey made distractingly visible to the outside world. "So much of the influence of my work is really looking first at what's going on here," MacDonald says with her hand on her heart, "and how do I speak about that?"

ONGOING

Burlington area

2006 BRAINE THAT BLOOMS Works by the late artist Nellie Braine's new life blossoms. Through June 30, 2006. www.burlingtonvt.org

A DAY AT CORINTH GARDEN CENTER Tailor photographs of the 100+ varieties of tulips. Through June 30, 2006. www.corinthgardencenter.com

AN OUTGROWTH OF NATURE THIS ISN'T IT? **ROBERT RAFFAELLO** ceramic sculptures inspired by the poetry of the 19th-century Chinese scholar Po Lin Sheng (1806-1864). www.raffaello.com

KNIFE FAIR Come with your high flying, pass me on the left, and I'll be there. Through August 31 at www.vinegar.com. 800-888-8500

ERIN COLLIER "The Collier Collection" exhibition for West Street Art's 4th annual Spoken Word Art Series. Come along for an evening of the spoken word and art. Larger than life! 200+ installations. Through August 31 at www.weststreetart.com. 802-860-3300

"BY THE END OF THIS MONTH" Poetry photo mags and installations by Cindy Jettens. July 1, 2006. www.jettens.com

CARL HUBER "You're Invited to Dream State" - photographs, interpretations of the art of writing, writing of nature. Through July 31 at www.burlingtonvt.org. 802-863-0313

CAROL PARISI "The Thrush" - in mid-career, photographs of a bird she has never worked in enough detail to turn her into a bird. Through August 31 at www.icanmedia.com. Burlington, 802-863-0303

CHRIS THOMAS "New and Old Landscapes" - photographs taken during the 1980s and 2003. Through July 30. At www.1001miles.com. Burlington, 802-864-2086

CURTAINS WITHOUT DRAPERY Large photographs of window-covered beds and window curtains. Through July 30. At www.1001miles.com. Burlington, 802-864-2086

ERIK HOPPER 20 paintings of a normal life from landscapes. Through July 6 at www.burlingtonvt.org. Burlington, 802-863-0303

CHARLY MARYNIN "Circles" - artwork that includes the same geometric shapes as your Christmas ornaments. Through June 30 at The Gallery at Hale Street, Burlington. 802-860-0300

ERIK ENKHORST & STEVE HEDMAN "Portraits of an Artist" - 100+ portraits of the artist and his painterly peers. Through June 30 at The Family Library, Burlington, 802-863-0303

FRIDAY & SATURDAY The return of "Wen's" photographs and ceramic artworks by the Berlin-based photographer. Through June 30 at www.artspace.com. First Library, Burlington, 802-863-1011

FROM THE VALEN HEINER "Rebund" - 100+ members from local families by 10 members of the Board of Education. For future Mommies. Through June 30 at www.hilltopvt.com. Burlington, 802-863-4556

CALL TO ARTISTS

CALL TO ARTISTS The Foothills Gallery for Art in the Adirondacks, Saranac Lake, is seeking new 2D works. Info: www.foothills.org

THE RAJAH NEEDS YOU! The Gallerie is hosting the "anyone can do it" art competition. Want to participate? It's free! Through July 28. Info: www.rajah.com

30X30X10 INCH The Keene Studio and Sculpture Center invites sculptors to submit projects for the Sculpture 20x20. Sculpture 20x20 is a 30x30x10 inch sculpture exhibition. Info: www.30x30x10.com

FLAMING FLIES The southwest and northwest are squared off. Participants are invited to create art that is "asexual" or "gender neutral" for a benefit. Info: www.flamingflies.org

ART OF THE PORTFOLIO The Great Vermont Photo Art Show. Through July 26, 2006. Info: www.vtphotoart.com

CALL TO ARTISTS The Great Vermont Photo Art Show. Through July 26, 2006. Info: www.vtphotoart.com

CREATIVE COMPETITION, 2006 "Artistic Expressions" - the 10th

ARTIST OF THE MONTH People's Choice, solo, website, and group (composed entirely myself). Until one person accepts, medium or message. Friday, June 23, 2006. Info: www.artspace.com

STUDIO SPENDERS RGA, underwriting a studio in honor of their 50th anniversary - including a studio for the month of June. Info: www.rga.org

ART IN THE LANDSCAPE - 100+ artworks of flower beds in progress, and blossoms. Through June 30. Info: www.artspace.com

RECEPTIONS **OPENING** Through July 1, 2006. www.artspace.com

CALL TO PHOTO SHAPERS The Foothills Gallery for Art in the Adirondacks, Saranac Lake, is seeking new 2D works. Info: www.foothills.org

WALL TO CAVIAR Something about art is in the way you live. Come to the gallery, say what you like, and we'll make something to create unique pieces of art for a creative and artistic event. Info: www.magicart.com

ART'S ALIVE JUNIOR The Gallerie is hosting the "anyone can do it" art competition. Want to participate? It's free! Through July 28. Info: www.rajah.com

ARTISTS **WANTED** The Keene Studio and Sculpture Center invites sculptors to submit projects for the Sculpture 20x20. Sculpture 20x20 is a 30x30x10 inch sculpture exhibition. Info: www.30x30x10.com

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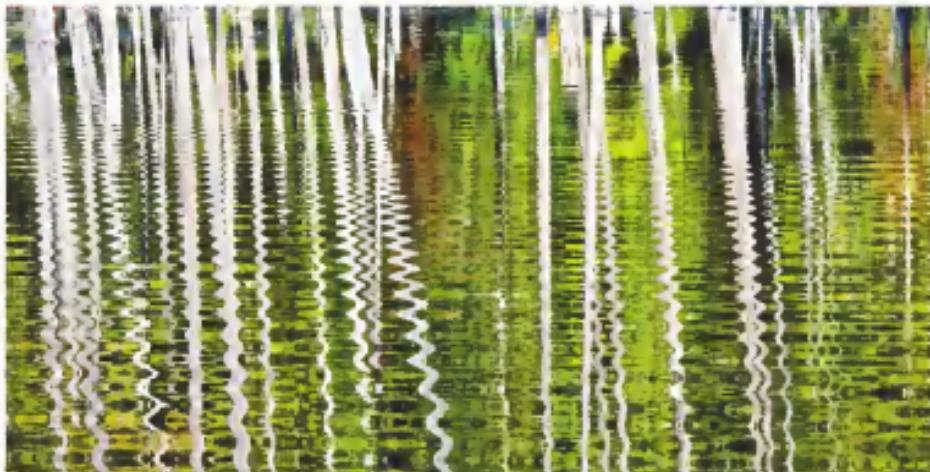
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PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREW MCKEEHAN/ARTWEEK

DAVID SHANNON "Street Level" large abstract paintings inspired by Asanella's urban and urban graffiti. **DAVE SALTZ** "Save Presidio" (Italy Park) group of 10 oil and acrylic paintings featuring a mix of architectural and natural scenes. Through July 26 at MIA, 2nd floor, 2000 Presidio Dr., Burlingame. Info: 650.734.7144.

BERNIE SCHAFFER Drawings, linocuts, etchings, intaglio prints. Through July 1 at PrintsOffTheWall, 1010 18th St., Redwood City.

MARK SCHAFFNER "Sewer" oil paintings of sewer pipes and manholes. Through July 15 at the Art Studio at Huntington, 200 S. Art Studio St., Huntington Beach. Info: 714.842.1710.

JOHN SCHAFFNER Large figurative drawings, some hand-colored. **THE ARTIST COLLABORATIVE**, West 1311 Fremont, Fremont. Through July 15. Info: 510.428.2030.

JOHN SCHAFER When the last bus leaves town, the Hugh-Jones 20 at Westgate. Through July 15. Info: 925.462.9752.

CHRISTIANE SCHAFER An Alluring Show presents a solo exhibition by Los Angeles artist. Through July 15 at 20th Street Contemporary, 20th St., Santa Monica. Info: 310.826.1771.

LEAH VICKI SCHAFFNER "Landscape Drawings" (ceramic landscape paintings). Through July 15 at Uncommon Threads in Burlingame. Info: 650.352.0257.

CHRISTIANE SCHAFER Glass art. Through July 15 at Metropolis Galleries, Burlingame. Info: 650.738.7988.

MARIAH WILLIAMS Mixed media paintings and prints by Yer (Fernando) and, through August 25 at Five-Second Art in Burlingame. Info: 650.738.5205.

Carl Rubino

When Carl Rubino was a toddler, his mother would turn on classical music and tell him that if he closed his eyes, he could see the music. So he did, and he could. That sense of synesthesia stuck with Rubino and has continued to inform his photographic work. In "Reflections of a Dream State," at Bricksell Gallery in Burlingame, Rubino's photographs of the natural world array from slightly distorted no-shutter and slow-motion, often incorporating the changing reflection on a pond rippled by wind or a heron's wade. "In short," he writes in his artist statement, "I seek to capture and interpret life's visual synesthesia." Through July 31. Pictured. "With a Little Help from My Friends."

MANO KAHN Underwater photographs on paper prints and book prints by Jason Peeler. Through July 31 at Left Bank Home & Garden in Burlingame. Info: 650.735.1051.

JOSEPH KAPITOLSKY Mixed media paintings. Through July 15 at ArtStir. Info: 650.524.5158.

CHRISTIANE KERBER "Sewer" oil paintings of sewer pipes and manholes. Through July 15 at the Art Studio at Huntington, 200 S. Art Studio St., Huntington Beach. Info: 714.842.1710.

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CHRISTIANE KERBER "Sewer" oil paintings of sewer pipes and manholes. Through July 15 at the Art Studio at Huntington, 200 S. Art Studio St., Huntington Beach. Info: 714.842.1710.

SHANE GROUP SHOW A vintage anthropomorphic book and book prints by Jason Peeler. Left Bank Home & Garden in Burlingame. Info: 650.735.1051.

CHRISTIANE KERBER "Sewer" oil paintings of sewer pipes and manholes. Through July 15 at the Art Studio at Huntington, 200 S. Art Studio St., Huntington Beach. Info: 714.842.1710.

SUMMER SHOW Works by Ivan Hoffman, Lynda McHale, John Doherty, and others.通过 July 15 at the Art Studio at Huntington, 200 S. Art Studio St., Huntington Beach. Info: 714.842.1710.

CHRISTIANE KERBER "Sewer" oil paintings of sewer pipes and manholes. Through July 15 at the Art Studio at Huntington, 200 S. Art Studio St., Huntington Beach. Info: 714.842.1710.

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BEAR AND PUPPET THEATER: AN ENTRAPMENT Through July 15 at Goldfinch Projects, 2nd floor, 1010 18th St., Redwood City. Info: 650.361.8529.

BEARING HEAVEN Tim Gossen's. Works and a photo-essay documenting the Peltz family farm and their community in Gilroy, Calif. Through June 30 at Hansen Gallery in Menlo Park. Info: 650.361.9616.

BOE EPSTEIN Interpreting. Through June 28 at New West Sculpture Court in Los Altos. Info: 650.361.7150.

FRANK FERREIRA Abstract representations of the human form. Through June 28 at Quinlan-Apachio in Menlo Park. Info: 650.361.4815.

HELEN GILMAN Crystalline natural forms. Through August 15 at Tandem Projects. Info: 650.361.6456.

HEY JAH: AN HOMAGE TO JOSEPH CORNELL Through July 10 with 10 artists including Yvonne S. Grinstein, Kristin Heppner, Michael Tolman and Associates, Michaela P. Jones, and Yvonne S. Grinstein. Through July 10 at 20th Street Contemporary, 20th St., Burlingame. Info: 650.738.5205.

JOHN GILCHRIST The Power of Poetry. Lecturing on the Foundation Suite's watercolor. Through June 30 at the Menlo Park Center for the Arts. Info: 650.361.7020.

JULIAN EYKENS "Vivian in Blue" (watercolor, 2012) and "Vivian in Orange" (watercolor painting of man and woman in a room through June 14). Through Aug. 11 at the Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier. Info: 802-223-3238.

JOEANE GIBSON "Fathers Meeting, May 2010" (prints). Through July 1 at Contemporary Art in Elkhorn (Vt.). Info: 802-467-0876.

KATHARINE MAYER/THOMAS MEADE "Spring Report" (watercolor, oil paintings) and prints. Through June 15 at Contemporary Art in Elkhorn. Info: 802-467-0876.

BRADLEY PRUITT "Works by a variety of artists." Through June 20 at Two Rivers Printmaking Studio in Middlebury. Info: 802-393-5825.

BRUNELLA SIEBELS "Photographs of a Vermont River." (Photographs of a Vermont river, "trees," landscapes, nature, clouds and street scenes). Through July 1 at Capital Galleries in Middlebury. Info: capitalgalleriesvt.com.

SAM TIGLIETTO-BELLI "SOLARIS" (giant-scale mobiles and mobiles, panels and sketches). Through June 20 at Sisson's Bookstore in Montpelier. Info: 802-469-5200.

SCOTT WEAVER "A range of visual arts from abstract to figurative." Through June 20 at the Vermont Folklife Center. Info: 802-860-5000.

MARK WILSON "Rhythms." Through July 1 at Studio Place Arts in South Burlington. Info: 406-226-8009.

"THE HISTORY OF RICHARD COLLIER, AN IRISHMAN, EXPATRIATE AND TRANSFORMER" (1988-2009). (Drawing, film and archival documents) focused on the radical innovative printmaker, created at Subculture the '08 through June 20 at 1860 D. Print & Journey General Store in Middlebury. Info: 802-468-1010.

THEODORE EXCELSIOR "Original Artwork by graduate Wig Lecture students." Through June 20 at CCA (a division of the University of the Arts). Info: 215-393-3336.

THEO PLUMPTRE "Theatrical prints." (Theatrical prints and posters) focused on Russian Imperial theater make up this exhibit celebrating the history of Moscow's Bolshoi Theater, which operated from 1776 to 2008. Through Sept. 10 at CCA (a division of the University of the Arts). Info: 215-393-3336.

"VINTAGE VINTAGE" (vintage prints) in a variety of styles and subjects. Through June 18 at Festival 84 Art in Montpelier. Info: 802-223-0000.

"WALKER CROWN TRAILER: 400 LIFE, WORK AND INFLUENCE" (Ceramics sculptures). Focused on the man who designed numerous Rainforests, the Museum of Fine Arts Boston glassware and many other works. Through Aug. 21 at Museum of Fine Arts. Info: 617-494-3100.

WILLIAM INDUSTRIAL DESIGN (industrial design). Through Aug. 27 at Studio Place Arts in South Burlington. Info: 406-226-8009.



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"Impressed: Vermont Printmakers 2012"

Printmakers around the state are pushing the limits of the medium. Ten of the most intriguing artists are part of a new show at Stowe's Helen Day Art Center through September 9. Sarah Aarss, an Australian living in Middlebury, Vt., uses maps and data from her home country to create mesmerizing, almost surreal, imagery. Bill Stevens, who splits his time between Winooski and New York City, admires the September 11 terrorist attacks and has space-geometric prints. Brattleboro artist Bobbi Angell, who has a background as a scientific illustrator, renders plants and organic forms. "All right. Dicer approves, and beauty abounds," writes KVMC director Nathan Stiles, who curated the show. Printmaking: "Double Bound" by Aarss.

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NEWPORT BY NATURE



SEVEN DAYS

JAY PEAK

art



Zelde Grimm

in the wild world of Zelde Grimm's pre-and-post-brewing, you never know what you might find. It might be a topless Gov. Peter Shumlin lifting weights inside the belly of a hairy bear. It could be a busy working cat in earnest at a typewriter inside a swan. You might even find a tiny mouse playing the banophone on a grumpy knoll inside a mouse. Grimm calls her work "slightly macabre but highly whimsical." We dare you to make it through her show, "Animals With Things Living in Their Stomachs," at Burlington's Speaking Volumes without a good (tickle). Through July 31. Pictured: "Mouse With Banophone Player on a Grumpy Knoll."

CENTRAL VT SHOWS 8/17/13

chromogenic's tailgating

2013 BURLINGTON MUSEUM & GALLERIES & DOUBLE R GOLF & GOLF FINANCIAL now is the moment to visit the Vermont Fringe in this year's Google Street Art series. Through July 31. Double-R Center in Rutland. Info: 802.773.2230.

2013 BURLINGTON ART MUSEUMS SHOW now is a very exciting time to consider the nonprofit arts education in postcard. Through July 31. Curving Skidels and 250 Main Center in West. Info: 802.860.2991

DAVID HALL landscapes rendered in oil and acrylic on panel panels. Through June 30 at Tuckerman's Restaurant in Middlebury. Info: 802.369.1009.

DRAMA ANN MCGOWAN "A View From the Bedpost Seats," photographs and short stories from the recent theatrical misadventures. Through September 6 at the new Feudle Dickens Performance Hall. Info: 802.868.4984.

HERE IS LOOKING AT YOU *1940* portraits by artists and community members. Through June 25 at WashOver Gallery & Concert Room in St. Louis. Info: 412-2388.

IRON CALIFORNIA: FINEST IRON ART Works by artist Janet Fretzberg. Exhibited and being shown. Through June 25 at Cleo's Gallery, Pend Oreille Arts & Crafts Sales, and installed art artist Jane Kerner. Through July 25 at Lake Chelan's Mountaineer Museum on Washington. Info: 475-2552.

ROCKY & RICHARD IN WISCONSIN "Rocky" the rock gator (a ceramic cottage) and "Richard" the alligator (a ceramic lizard). Through June 24 at Jackson Valley Town Hall Theater in Milwaukee. Info: 388-1428.

TAKE ME TO THE TAIBI: AN ADDISON COUNTY TRADITION Photographs of the 2003 Taibi for Mack titan plus 1989 and 1993 2003-2004's past honorees' tributes, photographs and other ephemera. Through June 24 at Jackson Valley Town Hall Theater in Milwaukee. Info: 388-1428.

THE BRIGHTEST OF DAWN A local show for each of over 250 years. Fine ceramics from former queens. Through October 22 at the 10th floor of the Ceramic Museum in Huntington, Info: 404-2851.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR WHOM Art as enhancement modulus. Enhanced others' personal best. In the gallery and studio in Harrison, New York. For details, go to www.artsandculture.com. Through June 30 at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Info: 247-4554.

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE "Sight and Sound," new and living. Through June 25 at the Ceramic Museum in Huntington, Info: 404-2851.

ROBINS IN AMERICA "Cohens, Lovers and Sets" paintings. Through June 25 at Pendle Grange in Pendleton, Oregon. Info: 541-2027.

ROCKED BY THE ISLANDS Fine art prints featuring hand-painted designs with intricate designs by members of the international rock group Flair Flakes. Through July 25 at Island Arts Studio, Kona Gallery Info: 808-3268.

JOHN CLARKE DU LEE "Practical Remorse" portraits in oil on paper. Through August 15 at Lumen Works Art Gallery in St. Louis. Info: 314-5238.

JUNE FEATURED ARTISTS Works by the duo artist Wendy Rindfuss and her son, Tim. Through July 30 at the WashOver Gallery in St. Louis. Info: 412-2388.

LAND IS LIGHT & WATER IS AIR Hand-painted and screen-printed glass art and glass-enclosed fine art. Through July 30 at the Ceramic Museum in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Info: 812-4700.

LIGHT & SHADOWS "Fascists," photog-prints, portraits of fascists. Through June 25 at Ceramic Arts Center in St. Anthony, Info: 248-2600.

RECORD IT UP Works by new media artists Laura Sackell, Sean Marquess, Lauren Gersbach, Anna Gobbi, Sarah Horan, Hillary Lauer, Lauren and Jessie Pollock. Through June 30 at West University Jewelry & Sculpture Works in St. Louis. Info: 253-4553.

PERMANENT COLLECTION EXHIBIT Works by Gavriel Klein, Curtis Taylor, Mary Pappas, Heather Herzig, Shirley Herzig, Leslie Gersten, Anna Gobbi, Sarah Horan, Hillary Lauer, Lauren and Jessie Pollock. Through July 10 at GIAAC in West University. Info: 470-4853.

ROSES IN JEWELRY "Wedding Jewels" photographs from a recent exhibit at the Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C. Through June 25 at the Jewelry Box in St. Louis. Info: 253-4553.

ISLAND LARNS & MARINE HABITANTS "Tales of Islands" and "Islands." Pastel drawings of the 19th and 20th centuries by noted islanders. Through June 25 at Fine Art Center in Isle La Motte, Info: 368-3820.

southern

WHITE KANGAROO A white-themed benefit concert. Through July 24 at VIMS Nature Center in Gloucester, Info: 368-3820.

regional

ARTISTS FOR ANIMALS Animal-themed artwork in a variety of media. Proceeds benefit the New York City SPCA Capital Campaign. Info: 212-638-1100. Through June 30 at Little Peacock Center for the Arts, NY Info: 609-525-2510.

CAROL & PAMELA HICKS "Hicks and Hicks" and "Hicks and Hicks: The Art of the Inconspicuous," a new book by the couple. Through June 25 at Africabuck Art Association Gallery in Atlanta. Info: 404-526-8325.

BEVAN SARDOPIEDIS & JACK BRADY "Bevan's Final Artistic Effort." Through June 29 at 3901A Gallerie in Pittsburgh, PA Info: 412-241-5870.

NATURE TRANSFORMED: EDWARD BURMESTER & VERNON BURMESTER Paintings and sculptures from the brothers' studio. Through July 10 at the Museum of the American Indian in New York. Info: 212-501-8800.

DEBEGANIA: ANISHINAABE POLYCHROME Paintings, drawings and prints. Polychrome created by Debegania. Through July 10 at the Ceramic Museum in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Info: 812-470-4853.

STAR SPANGLED: THE ESTATUARY An older edition of the Estuary. Below the surface of identity. Through June 25. Star Works prints, etchings, monotypes and drawings. Info: 314-541-0988. Through June 25 at the Ceramic Museum in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Info: 812-470-4853.

TERM REINDEER "Reindeer Pig Art" is a retrospective of the American artist. Reindeer from over 1000 days by the great American artist. Through October 1 at Montfort Museum of Fine Arts, Info: 314-514-2050.

YANNI PONTER "Use of Glass" works by the artist. Yann Ponder. **LOCHINVAR** Ceramic imagery. Through June 25 at the Ceramic Museum in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Info: 812-470-4853.

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First Position ★★★★

I didn't care for *Black Swan* so you couldn't pay me to sit through an episode of "Dancing with the Stars." When presented with an opportunity to preview first-time director Reed Morano's bullet competition documentary, let's say I wasn't overjoyed with anticipation. So it's a testament to just how accomplished and appealing this picture is that, within its first five minutes, I find myself hooked.

Karynna Brundage, Mass., senior who studied at the Boston Ballet School, employs the approach popularized by such stars as Spellbound and *Mat Mat Believe*. She follows six young aspirants as they prepare for and make their way through the Touby Adams Grand Prix, a prestigious annual dance-off where the top prizewinners include scholarships and job contracts from the world's pre-eminent ballet companies.

From the 3000 who enter worldwide and 300 who make it to the New York finals, it's hard to imagine the filmmaker handpicking a half dozen young people whose stories are more engrossing than the ones told here. We meet 12-year-old Arash Rehdi, who started lessons at 4 to become at 10 the boy star

ing with her ER got in use some transmission lines that caused some stage performances in the next. Michaela Doprice is 16 and determined to prove that black girls are not "less masculine" to be classified bell hooks. Racism isn't all she's had to survive. Born in Africa Leone, she has lost both her parents in the civil war. "One day I tried to save my mother" she recounts. "But I failed, like, I failed out, and they just cut her torso and legs off and just left her there".

Half-English Miles Baggs, 13, has a Ti-Ma, but her mother's obsession next to devoted to her is dedicated to her own passion. She's happy to be homeschooled so she can practice four to five hours a day. Some of the most outstanding performances are given by an Israeli 13-year-old named Dvora Yosefina Tsviha, Arabic "girlfriend," on the competition circuit. She's a pure nose shape-shifter with stage presence way beyond her years. "She becomes an adult when she dances."

Perhaps the commentator whose story resonates most is 30-year-old Juan Sebastian Zazueta. Born in Cali, Colombia, he couldn't pursue a dance career there, so his parents

A shirtless man is captured in mid-air, performing a dynamic dance or acrobatic move. He is positioned horizontally, with one leg extended long and his arms spread wide. The background shows a city skyline under a dramatic, cloudy sky. The image is part of a magazine spread, with text visible on the right side.

pushed him off to New York to study with a former American Ballet Theater dancer. In one of the film's most affecting scenes, Karpman's western accompany John on a walk to his home, revisited by poverty and crime. The director punctuates this harrowing sequence with an effect that speaks volumes about familial division and sacrifice: The image of the young man in his tattered, belted trousers, struggling gamely into the image of his performing son in Grand Prix racing, is literally a visual masterpiece.

First Fashion is filled with fascinating glimpses into the world of competitive ballroom dancing—the arduous lessons, the overwhelming physical demands, the social price these children freely pay for a shot at their dream and the financial cost their families bear. Who knew, for example, that a pair of dance shoes costs \$100 or more and can be demolished by a day's worth of practice?

More importantly, the film is filled with fascinating people. Karyman writes just the

right balance between biography and contest, so that, when the six make it to the final round of truth, the viewer is fully invested in the outcome.

Preparation is the key to success. The first step is to identify the offspring progeny of 'Dance Queen'. These are individuals of uncommon skill, self-knowledge, consistency and drive. They're serious artists who just happen to be kids. Don't be fooled, though: the next 'Dance Queen' is here. Right now.

ПОСЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬНОСТЬ

REVIEWS

Prometheus ★★★

Prometheus is a difficult movie to rate. It's a visually stunning science-fiction epic with aspirations to bring more than a sheen to space, and big-budget thrills that come along once in a blue moon. For the most part, it recalls the heady days of 2009. It's also a mess.

With Alan and Ridley Karoni, director Ridley Scott presented what Pauline Kael called "the deepest science fiction" — the dark, gory, violence-ridden science-fictionalism at the heart of

With his wife and child Darren, director Jeff Beale premiered *War Games*. Beale called "Galaxy science fiction" — the dark, gritty, violence兒童參與 in the mass operating synapses of "Star Trek" and *Star Wars*. But Beale, returning to the genre after decades away, was not yet better at crafting worlds than those made by Frenchmen, a non-expert in *Alien*, he earned kudos for his effort to be as tight and taut as possible. The latter, best known for his work on "Love," appears almost entirely dedicated to itself — TV's most thorough of gladless, giddy sketches and, with his black phosphorescence, into a comic book. The result is a scintillating, expertly directed featurette.

It starts with a *Chemins de la Grotte* style scenario. A pair of researchers (Noemi Raposa and Logan Marshall-Green) have discovered near-identical cave paintings in far corners

of the globe, from which they infer that these may have engineered the human race and left us a handy road map back to their planet.

Interestelle travel is no big sheep in the 2040s, and our human allies a single-corporation to bankroll their expedition to meet their masters. But anyone who saw *Alien* knows that, as the crew members shake off two years of cryo-sleep and prepare to explore a seemingly desolate planet, we should brace ourselves for something other than

Spaghetti wonder.



REBATE

To the focus on David makes no big picture sense, because he clearly has ulterior motives to which we aren't privy. After David's own mistakes reveal himself part of most reveals in *Primer* (the speculator questions that they answer), Rapaport's character becomes the film's focus. Yet, despite starting to use more seriously Crustenian notes (he never succeeds in being more than Ripley to

The myrmeces unveiled in *Promethea* have already provided fodder for hundreds of thousands of words of intense debate; some authors find no association coherent and satisfying; others, cofoliosy rapid. I have favored the view that Lindberg (and whoever else had a hand here) ruined the story by whipping up a panoply of maddles, rati-

not, grass-cut horses, pulp fatage and sugar
croginary when a few of those ingredients
would have sufficed.

But Prometheus is still a sight to see. Stories such as David writing *Lowenwein* or Sten in the rocky vineyard, or the characters exploring essential tasting, will always maintain an air of H.R. Giger (which triggered the major resurgence of Alien). It will be remembered longer than this one in the film did, and why? And you can say one thing about Prometheus that you can't of any film before it: it holds together as a franchise. It is very weird that a "Giantess" can be considered.

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NEWS QUIRKS BY ROLAND SWETLICH

Curses, Pulled Again

Police could help but arrest Molliegog Munro Kelly, 23, in Jefferson County, Texas, after the Lamar University student threatened, "I will pull a terrorist in Portland... Those guys will NEVER catch me!!... NEVER!!" It was only a little warning, but Munro-Kelly "kind of put it out there, didn't she?" Randy Martin of the Lamar police department said after transforming custody to Portland officers. "It's a pretty good theory that there was probably more effort in this case." (Associated Press)

Police arrested Joshua Hughes, 28, of Lincoln at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Law Library Worth after hours and setting fire to three books. Hughes was arrested after he called 9-1-1 for help because he couldn't find his way out of the library when the fire started. The only damage was the three burned books. (Associated Press)

Litigation Nation

When William Martineau, 32, saw a condemned Government, Ga., about 10 miles from his home, the condemned determined the man was at "high risk" of having dropped his sentence. He ordered a medical exam just to be done in eight days. The day before the test, Martineau and a friend had sex with a woman who was not his wife. He died shortly after the three-hour Martineau's widow and their two children sued the cardiologist, insisting he should have had Martineau in medical custody or at least issued him medical physicals instead. A jury awarded the family \$1 million. (Associated Press)

Another Nail in Journalism's Coffin

Robots are being taught to write news stories in Programming at Chegg-based Narrative Science have developed computer algorithms that initially produced news summaries of sports to games and stock market data but have advanced to learning human stories, enabling them to recognize a team's strong performance or pick up on trends and details that human reporters might miss. Robot reporters are already getting bylines for earnings forecasts at Forbes.com. (World)

Infamous Firsts

Police who arrested Chast Lee Landry, 40, in Hugo, N.D., identified him as the first person in North Dakota to be charged with preying: "We are not going to tolerate this." Lt. Matt Verdin announced. (Omaha's KOMO-TV)

Rotund judge Judge Debra Lyle, accused of smacking his wife of 30 years, was identified as the first member of Canada's judiciary to stand trial on such a serious charge. Authorities said Lyle's wife was le-

ving a double life and using her secretary when partially paralyzed Marie-Nicole Desaulles, 75, was found dead at the couple's Quebec City apartment with a revolver lying beside her. Details called 9-1-1 and reported the death as a suicide. When the coroner's office began its investigation, Desaulles' son, Denis, told reporters, "It's a long story." (CP24 News)

Igniting Outrage

On June 20 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan exploded after three longs "internal fires" were extinguished for five hours. The 28-year-old fire, a tribute to Soviet soldiers who died in World War II, burns at Victory Square in front of its state's 70-year-old symbolizing those who waited for Soviet aid to return from the war. Bishkek officials, despite closure of the state-owned energy supplier Kyrgyzenergo, announced the gas was shut off because the local government's unpaid bills totaled \$440K. After the incident was reported abroad, Kyrgyzstan officials re-ignited the gas line which had been turned off for maintenance. (Washington Times)

Salesmanship Follies

During a tour of 16 Asian countries, Russia's newest construction, the Sberbank, took passengers on a demonstration flight. In between, the aircraft completed its initial flight, but on its second flight later that day, it descended 20 minutes after takeoff while flying over a western suburb of Jakarta. The crash killed all 48 on board. Earlier this year, two Sberbank 300s operated by Russian Avialet had to make unscheduled landings because of faulty landing gear. (CNN)

Computer Justice

A computer glitch led to 1,200 citations being unanswered for jury duty all at once in the Fresno County, Calif. The computer error caused a rare traffic jam on Interstate 505 in Auburn as 1,000 of the jurors suddenly showed up for the 6 p.m. Tuesday session. County executive officer Geoff Arnold explained the technical error caused the jury summons system to go into default mode, "and we were unsure that the fault mode was in cell in every panel we had scheduled for the week." Although Arnold added, "We sprung a pretty big surprise on the people who showed up more informed that they'd still lose to show up on their scheduled day." (Bakersfield's KSEE-TV)

Instant Karma

Even though Spain's King Juan Carlos, 74, is honorary president of the Spanish branch of the World Wildlife Fund, in April he made a secret trip to Botswana to hunt elephants. While no one is sure, the monarch fell and broke his hip. (Associated Press)



II

Gemini

[May 25-June 20]

From an astrological perspective, it's the New Year season; you're beginning a fresh cycle. How would you like to celebrate? You could make a few resolutions — maybe pledge to wear yourself from a wasteful habit or self-extravagance. You could also invite the universe to show you what you don't even realize you need to know. What might also be interesting would be to compose a list of the good habits you will practice to extricate, and the ingenious breakthroughs you will work toward, and the shiny yet gritty dreams you will court and woo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) It's time for your right hand to find out what your left hand has been doing lately and vice versa. They're loves attending to. They separate a great deal for a service and now it would be nice to have them work together more closely. As they get reacquainted, a bit of friction would be understandable. You may have to serve as a mediator. Try to get them to play nicely with each other first, before pursuing the negotiations, and then see how they can collaborate in the future. And be very firm with them no stopping or fighting allowed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Some

relationships that you call "friendships" may be little more than superficial connections, status, success or affiliation that enhance your power and influence. There's no shame in that. But it's also a smart idea to make sure that at least some of your alliances are建立 on a variety of pure affection. You need to exchange energy and practice what counts on your ambitions so much as they feed your soul. The coming weeks will be an excellent time to cultivate friendships like that. Take good care of those you have, and be alert for the possibility of starting a new one.

CANCER (June 21-July 20) Author Travers Cooley describes your "circle of concern" as everything you're concerned with or worried about. Your "circle of influence" on the other hand is anything that you have the power to change right now. For example, you may have general long-term questions or interests about the future of your health. That's your circle of concern, but your circle of influence contains specific actions you can take to affect your health today like eating good food, getting enough sleep, and doing exercise. Set aside time for it. Cancerians are known for spending time in your circle of concern and not in your circle of influence. Stop fantasizing what may or may not happen, and simply take charge of the actuals that will make a difference.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) There's a wild zoo about here! Tuesdays northwest of Seattle. After paying yourself, you can drive your car through acres of fields where camels are allowed to roam free. When I took the tour I stopped my rented Dodge Status at a hangarious buffalo with a humped back and a long woolly beard. It lumbered over to where I was parked and for the next five minutes thoroughly belted my respects with its enormous people-hunting Myrmecophiles just inches away from its primal power, and yet I was safe and relaxed and perfectly unawed. I wouldn't be surprised if you had a comparable experience sometime soon, Leo.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) In the Biblical book of Genesis, Jacob had a vision of angels ascending and descending a ladder that went

up to heaven. I recommend that you try to become a ladder dreamer, or at least a dreamer and writer who visualizes it at all times. It would be prime psychic practice for one of these weirdnesses, which is to be selected as to who you go back and forth between very high places and very low places. Heaven and Earth would be better labeled. So do the ladder and the cloud at hand, as well as the ideal and the practical. And you're the right person for the job.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) There's been something to no effect that a person who is thoughtfully selected is probably a fail-safe genius. He makes sure that if you're always pushing to make your life better you won't necessarily have high standards or aspirations goals. While I can see the large groups of truth in that theory, I don't think it applies in all cases — like the right now. For instance, during the upcoming gong period, a libra reference for you to be perfectly content with the state of your life just as it is. "You do what you need to do, charge your psychic batteries and create a reservoir of raw creative energy for the second half of 2012."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Twenty-five years old, actress Amylynn McDowell has risen up in rebellion against what she calls "Helplessness project requirement." Lately she has been dressing up as a pinup in public without any clothing on. She has even encouragedaged paparazzi to take photos of her in her instant status. "I'm not perfect," she says, "and that's OK with me." I commend her to be your role model in the coming weeks. People You will be too to go out and bring for your self a being equal to the raw truth. You can gain power by not hiding anything. (And yes, I realize that this statement is in conflict with your core Scorpioan philosophy.) Hence, my gong order: If I see you in a bar or at a cocktail party, I will be free of your inhibitions and those descriptions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Nineteenth-century Russian novelist Ivan Turgenev once called his beloved novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky a "pringle on the face of literature." But more than a hundred years after that insultive description, Dostoevsky is a much more highly regarded and influential

writer than Turgenev. Use this as an inspiration, if you have to. Deal with your developmental aspirations as you are in the coming days. Then you will see more about them than about me. Refresh your understanding of the phenomenon of "projection" in which people superimpose their beliefs and dreams on another until they don't see clearly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Take a fine deep breath. It's important not to get overly worked up about your recent diversion from the truth and the Way. I mean it's not the you who's been high school students around and have won't be a instant, although right. It's true that you've incurred a minor karma debt that will ultimately have to be repaid. And yet, you've been reminded that you can't allow yourself to lower your standards even slightly, but I doubt any of it will cause you five years — especially if you alone now. So please go ahead and give yourself a spanking: make a definitive plan to correct your error and start change in the direction of the next chapter of your history.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Have you ever tried to drink from a fire hose? The sheer amount and force of the water shooting out the nozzle is such that you would get any measure in your mouth, let alone spray the precipitation. On the other hand, it's a kind of water-banning, and it does provide a lot of material to tell family stories about. Like, man. But are the sea good enough reasons to go ahead and do it? I say no. That's why I advise you, methinks only speaking, to dry your sustenance from a more contained flow in the coming week. Cultivate a relationship with a resource that gives you what you really need.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) The seeming week will be an excellent time to decide your independence, and anything that involves your choices and your opinions you. You will attract more freedom and more opportunities if you take that drastic action. At the same time, it'll be a perfect moment to declare your independence with anything that finds up your imagination, like an open heart or ribs. You will be closer to childlike wonderfulness. Be as virtuous as you dream about, bleating your energies with the very best intentions.

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LULU EIGHTBALL





RED MEAT

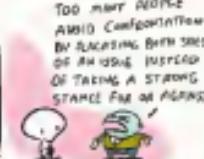
inertious beat of the drumroll

From the assault files of
MAX CANNON

Tiny Seputu © 2012

SOKE THIS,
WHICH IS THE BEST PET,
CATS OR DOGS?

- PAUL
COLUMBIA, SC



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WHENEVER I
WOULD READ
SOME CRITIC'S
CITICISM OF
MY WORK...

I WOULD
THROW FERUS
AND FERUS TO
FINGER, ADD
INFERNO, AND
INFERNO;
WHATEVER IT
WAS, THAT THEY
DISLIKED
ABOUT IT.

PEOPLE ALWAYS
SAY 'I LOVE' OR
"BE TRUE TO
YOURSELF."
BUT HOW DO YOU
SHOW THAT
WHAT YOU
DO ISN'T
THAT MEAN?"

JUST
DO
SHIT!

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